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LD1611142488 [Editorial Report]

Israel

According to Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir proposed to an Alignment negotiating team a 4-year government without rotation. The offer was "flatly rejected." IDF radio reported later that the Alignment decided to stop negotiations on the establishment of a unity government until clarifications are made on the issues of the division of portfolios, a rotation agreement, and an international Middle East conference.

In the territories, restrictions sealing off the West Bank were lifted but many areas remain under curfew and schools will remain closed until the end of the month, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio also reported that two Gazans were injured in clashes with soldiers, and IDF radio disclosed that a West Bank resident suffered leg injuries from a plastic bullet. Chief of Staff Dan Shomron warned that the territories' inhabitants will pay "the full price" for the PLO's declaration of independence, Jerusalem radio reported.

PNC Session, Political Statement

At the end of the Algiers PNC session, a political statement was issued hailing the declaration of a Palestinian state and calling for the continuation of the uprising. The statement, which was published in the Jordanian paper AL-RA'Y, stressed the need to convene an international Middle East conference on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and called for Israel's withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab territories. It also called for UN supervision of the territories "for a specific period of time" to create a suitable atmosphere for a successful international conference.

The Israeli cabinet was briefed on the PNC resolutions, according to Jerusalem radio. While some Alignment ministers regarded the resolutions as a "new departure," Likud ministers said they saw no room for any diplomatic consideration of them.

The PFLP-GC condemned the PNC's independence declaration and recognition of UN Resolution 242 as a "crime," and called on the masses of Palestinian Arab people to express their anger and denial of the "traitorous decisions," the clandestine Al-Quds radio reported. The radio also reported a statement by the Palestinian Communist Party which said the PNC declaration seriously endangers the PLO and the Palestinian cause. The Fatah Provisional Command in Damascus called the declaration a "disaster," Radio Monte Carlo reported.

As for other reaction, Egypt issued a statement expressing support for the declaration, MENA reported, while Libya issued a communique, broadcast by Tripoli radio, announcing full recognition of the Palestinian state. Soviet television called the declaration "symbolic," while IRNA deemed the foundation of the state "unsound and unenduring."

Lebanon

In an interview with AL-SHIRA', Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib said his role as acting army commander is to bring about the unity of all of the Army's brigades, but he said he will not punish brigades who do not obey his orders as he understands the circumstances they are under. He admitted his primary concern is properly equipping the Army, which he called a "political" task.

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that Army officers in the south have asserted their support for Prime Minister Michel 'Awn.

Pakistan

Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan spoke on Islamabad radio 15 November to assure the country that the elections will be conducted in a "free, fair, and impartial" manner. He said the Armed Forces are prepared to prevent any disruptions. According to AFP, the polls opened 16 November amid "unprecedented security." The agency previously reported that one person was killed 15 November when a bomb exploded in a shopping area of Rawalpindi.

Afghanistan

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov denounced the opposition's 13 November attack on Kabul airport in which he revealed 10 Soviet servicemen were killed, TASS reported. He said the Soviet Union cannot tolerate such incidents and the rebuff will be "most resolute."

In other developments, a resistance spokesman cited by AFP announced that the mujahidin have ended their attacks on the Salang highway after proving they could cut the key link between Kabul and Moscow.

Libya

Eleven Italian sailors arrested for fishing illegally in Libyan territorial waters were released after a meeting between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Sicilian governor, Tripoli radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

Further Reportage on PNC Session in Algiers

PNC Issues 'Text' of Statement

JN1511214288 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1952 GMT 15 Nov 88

["Text" of the political statement issued by the PNC at the end of its 19th extraordinary session—the uprising session in Algiers on 15 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

On heroic Algerian territory, and with the hospitality of its people and President Chadli Benjedid, the PNC held its extraordinary 19th session. This was the session of the uprising and national independence, the session of the heroic martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], that lasted from 12 to 15 November 1988. It was crowned by the declaration of the establishment of the Palestinian state on our Palestinian territory. This is the natural coronation of a popular, daring, and stubborn struggle which has continued for more than 70 years and is characterized by great sacrifices of our people in the homeland, on its borders, and in all the camps and areas of the diaspora. The session was characterized by its planning for the great national Palestinian uprising—the most prominant militant event in the contemporary history of the Palestinian people's revolution, alongside the epic and mythical steadfastness of our people in their camps inside and outside our occupied territory.

Ever since the first days of the uprising and during the 12 months of its continuation, the basic outlines of our people's great uprising were clarified. It is a comprehensive popular revolution manifesting the unanimity of the nation—men and women, children and elderly, camps, villages, and cities—to reject the occupation and to struggle to overthrow and end it.

This great uprising unveiled the deeply entrenched national unity of our people and their total rallying round the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people—all our people—in all their places of concentration inside and outside the homeland. This has been manifested in the participation of the Palestinian masses—all the national, professional, student, workers, women, peasant, businessmen, landlord, vocational, academic union, and institutional sectors—in the uprising through the Unified Leadership of the Uprising and the popular committees which have been formed in all city districts, villages, and camps.

Our people's revolutionary furnace and blessed uprising, along with the continuous revolutionary and creative accumulation of our revolution in all its locations and arenas inside and outside the homeland, have rejected the wagers and illusions of our people's enemies to turn the occupation of Palestinian land into a permanent fait accompli and to push the question of Palestine into a state of forgetfulness and oblivion. There are generations who have been brought up on the goals and the continuation of the Palestinian revolution and experienced all its battles since it started in 1965 up to the present. They experienced its heroic steadfastness in the face of the 1982 Israeli invasion, the steadfastness of the revolution camps in Lebanon, and the siege of starvation and death.

These generations—the sons of the revolution and the PLO—affirm the vigor and continuity of this revolution, making the land under the feet of the occupants tremble. These generations have proven that the militant asset of our people is unlimited and their staunch belief is genuine and deep rooted.

Through this revolutionary harmony between the children of the RPG and the sacred stones inside and outside our occupied territory, our people have remained steadfast in the face of all the attempts of the enemy authorities to end our popular revolution. They have remained steadfast despite all these authorities' terrorism, repression, killing, captivity, deportation, encroachment on the Islamic and Christian holy places, violations of our places of worship, stealing of lands, demolition of houses, premeditated killings, sending armed settlers against our villages and camps, burning of gardens, cutting off water and electricity, beating of women and children, usage of banned gases that resulted in the death and abortion to thousands, and practicing a policy of stagnation through the closure of schools and universities.

Our people paid a price for their heroic steadfastness—hundreds of martyrs, tens of thousands of wounded, prisoners, and deportees. Our people's genius was always present in critical moments. They initiated militant methods to reinforce their steadfastness and resistance and to confront the enemy crimes and measures and continue their heroic tough struggle.

Our people have proven—through their steadfastness, the continuation of their revolution, and the escalation of their uprising—that their determination to continue the struggle, regardless of sacrifices, is unlimited. Our people are armed with a great militant heritage; an unwavering revolutionary will; a firm national unity further reinforced through the uprising inside and outside the homeland; a comprehensive support fore their national leadership, the PLO; and an adherence to their objectives to defeat and end the Israeli occupation and achieve their inalienable national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

In all this, our people relied on the support of our Arab masses—their forces and their support. This was demonstrated through the large-scale Arab support that the uprising received and the official Arab consensus embodied in the Arab summit in Algiers and its resolutions. This affirms that our people are not alone in

confronting the racist, fascist onslaught, thus foiling the Israeli aggressors' attempt to isolate them from their Arab nation's support for their struggle. Alongside this Arab solidarity, our people's revolution and their blessed uprising have won a wide-ranging international solidarity that was manifested by [words indistinct] for the Palestinian people's cause and also by the increase in the backing and support being voiced by the world peoples and states for our just struggle. In contrast, these world peoples and states condemned the Israeli occupation and its crimes and this contributed to exposing Israel and further isolating it and isolating those supporting and backing it.

UN Security Council Resolutions 605, 607, and 608 and the UN General Assembly [UNGA] resolutions—which entrench the Palestinian right against the expulsion of Palestinians from their land, and against the [word indistinct] Israeli repression and oppression being perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories—were strong manifestations of the world public opinion's growing support, including official support, for our people and their representative, the PLO, against the Israeli occupation and its racist, fascist practices.

Also, UNGA Resolution 21L43A [as heard] dated 4 November 1988, which was issued by the session devoted to the uprising, was further proof of the overwhelming majority of the world peoples' and states' position against the occupation, for the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people, and for their inalienable right to freedom and independence.

Through the crimes of the occupation and its brutal and inhuman practices, the lie propagated by the Zionist propaganda machine about the democracy of the Zionist entity has been exposed—the lie which deceived world public opinion for 40 years. Thus, the true image of Israel as a racist, fascist, settler state based on the usurpation of the Palestinian territory and the extermination of the Palestinian people—a state that even voices threats against and carries out acts of aggression and expansion in neighboring Arab states—has surfaced. Through this it has been confirmed that the occupation cannot continue to reap the fruits of its occupation at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights without paying a price for its actions on the ground and in the arena of world public opinion.

In addition to the democratic and progressive Israeli forces which rejected and condemned the occupation and also denounced its oppressive practices and measures, the world's Jewish communities can no longer defend Israel or remain silent about its crimes against the Palestinian people. Several voices from these communities demanded that these crimes be stopped, that Israel withdraw from the occupied territories and that the Palestinian people be allowed to exercise their right to self-determination.

Through the overall results and effects brought about by our people's revolution and their blessed uprising in the domestic, Arab, and international arenas, the soundness and realism of the PLO's national program—based on dismantling the occupation, realizing the rights to repatriation and self-determination, and establishing an independent state—have been confirmed. It has also been confirmed that our people's struggle is the decisive factor in guaranteeing the extrication of our national rights from the claws of the occupation. The authority of the popular masses, represented by their committees, is controlling the situation in the face of the collapsed occupation authority and organs. It also became clear that the international community has become more prepared than ever to help achieve a political settlement of the Middle East problem and its basis, the Palestinian question. The Israeli occupation authorities, backed by the U.S. Administration, cannot continue the policy of non-compliance with the international consensus on the need to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East and to enable the Palestinian people to attain their national rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination and the exercise of their national independence on their land.

In light of all this, in order to consolidate the steadfastness of our people and their blessed uprising, in response to the will of our masses in the occupied homeland and abroad, and in faithfulness to the martyrs, wounded, and detainees, the PNC decides:

I. In the field of the continuation and escalation of the uprising:

A. To secure all means and capabilities to step up the uprising of our people on all levels and by all means to guarantee its continuation and escalation.

B. To support mass institutions and organizations in the occupied Palestinian territories.

C. To consolidate and promote the popular committees and mass and specialized trade organizations in order to increase their effectiveness and role, including the strike forces and the popular army.

D. To affirm the national unity, which consecrated and manifested itself splendidly during the uprising.

E. To intensify work on the international scene to release the detainees, repatriate the deportees, and end the acts of organized and institutionalized oppression and terrorism against our children, women, men, and institutions.

F. To call on the United Nations to place the occupied Palestinian territories under [words indistinct].

G. To call on the Palestinian masses outside the homeland to increase their support and consecrate the feeling of family solidarity.

H. To call on the Arab nation—its masses, forces, institutions, and governments—to increase their political, material, and media support for the uprising.

I. To call on all honorable and free men in the entire world to support our masses, revolution, and uprising to confront the Israeli occupation, its means of oppression, and its Fascist formal organized military terrorism, perpetrated by the occupation army, armed men, and fanatic settlers against our masses, universities, schools, institutions, national economy, and Islamic and Christian holy places.

II. In the political field, and in light of all the aforementioned, the PNC—from a position of responsibility toward our Palestinian people, their national rights, and their desire for peace; based on the declaration of independence issued on 15 November 88; and in response to the human will that seeks to consolidate international detente, eliminate nuclear arms, and settle regional conflicts by peaceful means—stresses the determination of the PLO to reach a comprehensive political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and its crux—the Palestinian question—within the framework of the UN Charter, the provisions and principles of international legitimacy, the rules of international law, and the UN resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 605, 607, and 608, and the Arab summit resolutions. The PNC stresses its determination in a manner that guarantees the Palestinian Arab people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent national state on their national soil, and in a manner that will ensure security and peace arrangements for all the countries in the region. To attain this, the PNC stresses the following:

1. The need to convene an effective international conference on the Middle East, with the Palestinian issue as the prime topic. The conference should be convened under UN supervision with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent members, and all the parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO—the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative—on an equal footing. The premise on which the international conference is convened is the legitimate basis [qa'idah al-mashru'ah] of the Palestinian people, foremost being the right to self-determination in accordance with the principles and provisions of the UN Charter on the peoples' right to self-determination, the impermissibility of seizing the lands of others by force or by armed invasion, and accordance with the UN resolutions on the Palestinian cause.

2. Israel's withdrawal from all the Palestinian and Arab territories it has occupied since 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.

3. Cancellation of all the attachment [ilhaq] and annexation measures, the removal of settlements Israel has set up on Palestinian and Arab territories [words indistinct].

4. [Words indistinct] placing the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, under UN supervision for a specific period of time [words indistinct] and render the international conference a success [word indistinct] to a comprehensive political settlement [words indistinct] security and peace for all through [words indistinct] and to enable the Palestinian state to exercise its real authority on these territories.

5. Resolution of the issue of the Palestinian refugees in accordance with the UN resolutions in this respect.

6. Securing freedom of worship and of the performance of religious rites in the holy places in Palestine for the followers of all the religions.

7. The UN Security Council shall enact and guarantee security and peace arrangements among all the countries concerned in the region, including the Palestinian state.

The PNC reaffirms its previous resolutions on the unique relationship between the two fraternal people, the Jordanian and Palestinian people. The future relationship between the states of Jordan and Palestine will be established on confederal bases [words indistinct] on the basis of [words indistinct] and free for the two fraternal people, to entrench the historical bonds and the vital interests that they commonly share.

The PNC reiterates its abidance by the UN resolutions that acknowledge the peoples' right to resist foreign occupation, colonialism, and racial discrimination, as well as their right to struggle for their independence. The PNC also reiterates its rejection of terrorism in all its forms, including institutionalized terrorism, stressing its commitment to its previous resolutions in this respect, to the resolution of the Arab summit in Algeria in 1988, UN Resolutions 159/42 of 1967, Resolutions 40/61 of 1985, and the contents of the Cairo Declaration issued on 7 November 1985 in this respect.

III. In both the Arab and international fields, the PNC affirms the importance of the unity of the land, people, and institutions of Lebanon and of standing firmly against attempts to partition the territory and scatter the fraternal Lebanese people. It also affirms the importance of joint Arab efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis which contribute toward crystallizing and implementing solutions that preserve its unity. The PNC also affirms the importance of entrenching the right of the Palestinian citizens in Lebanon to practice their political and media activities, to enjoy security and protection, to work toward eliminating all forms of conspiracy and aggression that target them, to give them the right to work, live, provide them with all the conditions that ensure that they can defend themselves, and provide for their security and protection.

The PNC also affirms its solidarity with the Lebanese nationalist Islamic forces in their struggle against the Israeli occupation and its agents in southern Lebanon. It

also expresses its pride in the solidarity struggle between the Lebanese and Palestinian people in confronting the aggression and ending the Israeli occupation of parts of the south. It affirms the importance of strengthening this solidarity between our masses and the struggling fraternal Lebanese masses.

On this occasion, the PNC sends greetings of appreciation to the steadfast in Lebanon's camps and in the south against aggression, murder, starvation, massacres, destruction, air raids, shelling, and siege, which the Israeli Forces, Air Force, and Navy are practicing against the Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages, where they are helped in that by the agent forces in the region. The PNC rejects the resettlement policy because the Palestinian homeland is in Palestine.

The PNC also affirms the importance of the ceasefire resolution between Iran and Iraq to establish a permanent peace between the two countries in the Gulf region. It calls for strengthening the exerted efforts so that the peace negotiations will succeed and become established on stable and firm bases. On this occasion, the PNC affirms the Palestinian Arab people's and all the Arab nations' pride in fraternal Iraq's steadfastness and victories while defending the eastern gate of the Arab nation. The PNC also expresses its deep pride in the support by the masses of our Arab nation for our Palestinian Arab people's struggle, the PLO, and our people's uprising in the occupied territories.

It affirms the importance of strengthening the militant relations between the forces, parties, and organizations of the liberation movements in the Arab world in defense of the rights of the Arab nation and its masses, development, democracy, and unity, and to take all measures to ensure the unity of the struggle [words indistinct] greetings and thanks to the Arab countries for their support of our people's struggle. We appeal to them to fulfill their commitments decided at the Algiers summit: to support the struggle of the Palestinian people and their blessed uprising.

As the uprising directs this appeal, it expresses its great confidence that the leaders of the Arab nation shall remain, as we know them, supportive of Palestine and its people. The PNC reiterates its appeal to the PLO toward using Arab unity as a framework which will order the efforts of the Arab nation and its countries to confront Israeli aggression and U.S. support of this aggression, and to strengthen the Arab position and required role to influence international policies for the benefit of Arab rights and issues.

The PNC directs its deep thanks to all international countries, powers, and organizations that support the Palestinian national rights and affirms its concern to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation with the friendly Soviet Union, the friendly PRC, the socialist countries, nonaligned countries, Islamic countries, African countries, Latin American countries, and other friendly nations.

The PNC notes with satisfaction aspects of the positive development in the positions of some West European countries and Japan on unique support for the Palestinian people's rights. The PNC greets this development and calls for reinforcing efforts to deepen it.

The PNC reiterates the fraternal solidarity of the Palestinian people and the PLO with the struggle of the peoples in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to achieve their liberation and reinforce their independence. The PNC denounces all U.S. attempts to threaten the independence of Central American countries and to interfere in their affairs.

The PNC expresses the PLO's support for the national liberation movements in Southern Africa and Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO. A special greeting is addressed to Brother Struggler Nelson Mandela against the racist Pretoria regime. The PNC calls for allowing the peoples of both countries to achieve their freedom and independence.

The PNC also expresses support for the African confrontation states and its condemnation of the aggressions of the South African racist regime against them.

While the PNC is monitoring with concern the expansion of the Zionist fascist and extremist forces and the escalation of their open call for implementing the policy of annihilation and the individual and collective expulsion of our people from their homeland, the PNC calls for intensifying the work and efforts in all arenas to confront this fascist danger.

At the same time, the PNC expresses its appreciation for the role and courage of the Israeli peace forces in confronting and exposing the forces of fascism, racism, and aggression and for their support for our people's uprising and their brave uprising, and for their support for our people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. The PNC reiterates its previous resolutions on reinforcing and developing the relationship with these democratic forces.

The PNC also appeals to various quarters of the American people to work to stop the U.S. Administration's policy that disavows the Palestinian people's national rights, including their sacred right to self-determination. The PNC appeals to all sectors of the American people to work to adopt policies that are identical with the legitimacy of human rights and the international charters and resolutions to serve the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East and to provide security for all peoples, including the Palestinian people.

'Arafat Holds News Conference

LD1511220788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Report with "highlights" of news conference by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat at the Palais de Nations in Algiers on 15 November; recorded]

[Text] This afternoon Yasir 'Arafat held a news conference at the Palais des Nations which was attended by hundreds of journalists from the international press and the local media, including representatives from national radio. Here is our correspondent on the telephone:

[Correspondent] At this news conference Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, presented a detailed summation of the work of the 19th emergency session of the PNC—the session on the uprising, the session of Martyr Abu Jihad—which ended with the historic declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

Journalists' questions generally centered on the political statement, the question of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East, UN Resolution No 242, and whether the PLO accepts it or rejects it.

Yasir 'Arafat's answers concentrated basically on the Palestinian people's insistence on the establishment of this independent state on its land, Palestine—following the declaration of the independent Palestinian state.

Regarding Resolution No 242, Yasir 'Arafat said: We accept the resolution on condition that we guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination. These issues generally constituted the thrust of the questions asked by the journalists.

Here is a recording of the important highlights of this news conference:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] (?Israel) claimed that our political statement was ambiguous and talked in two languages, that any negotiations should be based on Resolution No 242, and that the PNC and the political statement called for the destruction of Israel. The PNC was clear when it said that Resolution No 242 should be accompanied by our right [to establish] a state and our right to self-determination. However, in the eyes of Israel and the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the implementation of Resolution No 242 including the Palestinians' right to self-determination and their state, mean the death of Israel. I would like to ask, I am asking you now: Where is the ambiguity in our political statement when we say that acceptance of Resolution No 242 is linked to our right to a state? Is this double-talk [preceding word in English]? Is this a fabricated statement? The BBC correspondent in Algiers who was quoted by the BBC today said that this is the most that the Palestinians can offer. [end recording]

Habash Holds News Conference

LD1611002388 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, this evening held a press conference at the Palais des Nations which was attended by a large number of international journalists. He stressed that the independence document which was issued by the uprising state enjoyed unanimity. Also, the initial decision to form the provisional government of the Palestinian state and to draw up the basic principles of this government also enjoyed unanimity.

Mr George Habash explained that the PFLP has agreed with these decisions and is enthusiastic about them. This will put an end to all other options. There is only one option: namely to set up the Palestinian state and the government of this state. This was imposed by the unity of ranks in the uprising.

Mr George Habash expressed the belief that the masses of the uprising and the masses of the Palestinian people everywhere and the masses of the Arab nation and all the progressive forces in the world will know how to create the new balance of powers which will transform the declaration of the emergence of our Palestinian state into a reality on Palestinian soil. And it will know how to impose on the Zionist enemy the rights of the Palestinian people and how to establish their own state.

On the international conference and its relationship with the proclamation of the Palestinian state, Mr George Habash explained that convening the international conference is a triumph of the Palestinian people and a defeat for Israel; and that the obstacles put up by Israel, which has never ceased to be intransigent, and the U.S. stand on the idea and the manner of holding this conference show that it is not imminent. Therefore, we must surmount these difficulties so that an international conference on the Palestinian issue can be held. While waiting for this to happen, proclaiming the Palestinian state and forming the provisional government are a sound principle even if an international conference is still far off. Parallel to this, George Habash says, the Palestinian armed struggle will continue. This is the view of all the Palestinian groups without exception.

PFLP To Accept Consensus on 242

LD1411202588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1915 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, Nov 14 (KUNA)—Assistant Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Abu 'Ali Mustafa Monday said that the PNC's political debate was not concluded yet.

He told KUNA that the front opposes the draft resolution, currently discussed by the Palestine National Council's Political Committee, on the Security Council Resolution 242 but will respect the majority's opinion.

Mustafa hoped that the final statement would ensure gains to the Palestinian people.

Asked on the Soviet stance, he said that the Soviet officials had said that they will back any realistic PLO decisions and noted that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had carried new proposals during his meeting this year with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

The Soviets proposed implementing the Security Council Resolutions 181, 242 and 338, holding an international conference to be attended by the PLO, establishing a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, condemning all forms of terrorism and recognizing Israel's right to exist, Mustafa disclosed.

He added that the Americans did not agree to the Soviet proposals due to their preoccupation with preparations for the presidential elections.

The Soviets told the PLO officials that there is no room for a military solution in the Middle East and left it to the Palestinians to adopt whatever decisions they wish, taking into consideration facts and current international detente, the PFLP official noted.

Dissident Group Sees 'Disaster'

JN1511130088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] In Damascus, the dissident Fatah Provisional Command has regarded the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state as a disaster in the full sense of the word, because it means that the PLO has abandoned armed struggle and the Palestine National Charter.

Algeria

Syrian Vice President Arrives for Visit

PM1411112888 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 Nov 88 p 3

[Unattributed report: "The President's Audiences"]

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, received Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's special envoy, at the presidential office yesterday.

During that audience, which was attended by Nasir Qaddur, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs and the president's private secretary, Mr Khaddam gave the head of state a message from President Hafiz al-Asad.

After the audience with President Chadli Bendjedid, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said he had been asked to convey President Hafiz al-Asad's view to the president of the Republic on a number of questions relating to the latest developments in the situation in the Arab arena and in the region, and on the need to strengthen Arab unity.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam also stated that this meeting was characterized by agreement on all the topics discussed. In this connection, he said that the two countries have excellent relations and hold similar views on Arab questions.

In conclusion, the Syrian vice president stressed that he had given President Chadli Bendjedid President Hafiz al-Asad's fraternal greetings and sincere congratulations, and had conveyed his wishes to the Algerian people for greater progress and prosperity.

Tunisian Prime Minister Meets With Merbah

LD1611124088 Algiers APS in English 1023 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, 16/11/88 (APS)—The head of government, Kasdi Merbah had talks yesterday here with Hedi Baccouche, Tunisian prime minister and special envoy of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to President Chadli Bendjedid. Discussions centered on the situation of cooperation relations between the two countries, as well as possibilities to develop them and to bring them to the rank of the traditional relations existing between the two peoples.

Merbah Holds 'Working Meeting' on Program

LD1011173388 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Members of the government are holding their first working session this morning with Kasdi Merbah. This is not a full meeting of the government, but a working meeting intended to finalize the government's program. The task is urgent; the program has to be presented to the National Assembly on Saturday afternoon. We only know the main priorities of this program: Coherent pursuit and organization of the economic reforms; reorganization of the supply and distribution system; establishment of new financial and revenue instruments; and reform of the education and training system to adapt it better to the needs of employment and youth employment. [passage omitted]

Journalists Discuss Press Freedom, Problems

LD0911204788 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] A general assembly was held this afternoon at the premises of the national radio by all the journalists of Channels 1 and 2.

The adopted agenda includes among its fundamental points a number of problems related to radio journalistic work and the appointment of delegates to the Algerian journalists movement. The participants held talks for about 2 hours in an atmosphere of clarity, frankness, and democracy on freedom of the national press and on issues hampering radio work, such as the problem of ascertaining the origin of a news item, coordination between the various radio departments and its channels, and other socio-professional problems including the problem of accomodation, training, and training courses abroad.

Some of those who spoke stressed the necessity of clearly determining responsibilities and exposing those parties that cause ambiguity, waste energy, hamper the good course of journalistic work, and undermine the credibility of national radio.

Following the discussion, which was headed by a bureau elected at the beginning of the assembly, the participants began to elect delegates to the journalists' movement. The participants unanimously supported the idea of establishing an independent union of journalists free from any political or ideological tendencies.

Egypt

President Mubarak Marks New Parliamentary Term

NC1011164388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1038 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to a joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, marking the beginning of the new parliamentary term, at the People's Assembly hall in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council: Thanks be to God, your new legislative term begins in the aftermath of auspicious events which constitute landmarks on our path, kindle

hope in our hearts, inspire faith in ourselves and our future, and consolidate our firm conviction that Egypt, this blessed country, will always live in pride and dignity.

God has helped the truth appear and justice prevail. A conclusive ruling has been handed down by the International Arbitration Panel, establishing the indisputable fact that Tabah has always been and always will remain a part of Egypt's sacred soil. [applause] This is a section of our land which we cherish as much as we cherish the sacred valley in which God spoke to Moses. It is so dear to our hearts that we would not sacrifice an inch of its soil even if we had to fight the most ferocious battles. We would not allow anyone to impinge upon it, even if we had to sacrifice our souls. We all are ready to sacrifice for Egypt. We die, but the homeland will live on. [applause]

With our rights established over this precious part of our soil, we have established our age-long commitment to the noble traditions of our forefathers in safeguarding the great homeland. We seek no expansion at the expense of others nor do we condone any diminishment of the land of our people.

The establishment of our right to Tabah was a splendid epic of dedication, an epic through which the sons of Egypt lived together in all loyalty and firmness of faith, with profound feelings of belonging to the homeland, and in negation of self-interest. This is the true Egyptian spirit in its element. This is how the Egyptian national sentiment, in its purest forms, turns into a flood of sacrifice and work, into a race for answering the call of duty.

Scores of our dedicated fellow Egyptians have worked together, quietly and humbly, for their country. Specialists, prominent law experts, historians, and scholars joined hands with various government institutions in a massive effort undertaken without bickering or partisanship, without individualism or bigotry. They provided an astounding example of their love for their country. It became only natural that the outcome would match the sacrifice. "Verily, we shall not suffer to perish the reward of any who do a single righteous deed." "And it was due from us to aid those who believed." [Koranic verses]

Allow me on this great national occasion to mention an outstanding Egyptian who embodied the Egyptian loftiness and dedication to the service of the homeland. He is the late Dr Wahid Ra'fat [applause], who, although he was over 80, worked day and night so that Egypt would present its just cause in the best form. Together with his colleagues, he kept supervising the formulation of Egypt's demands until the last day of his busy life. He was motivated by one desire—sacrifice for the sake of the homeland. He set a magnificent example for future generations of Egypt's sons, who are learning from his lessons and are inspired by his example.

Dr Hamid Sultan, the dean of Egyptian jurists, who represented Egypt at the arbitration court, has been another example of dedication, capability, and devotion to the service of the homeland. Behind all these brilliant sons of Egypt stood the conscious masses of the people, supporting them and providing them with assistance and wisdom. Thus Egypt has exhibited a patriotism unique in its form and essence and has established firm bases and principles for all the region's peoples, so that they may utilize them, if they wish, to restore their rights and defend their interests. I wish to assure every citizen that this ruling will be implemented with all its provisions and articles. This is a firm commitment by the two parties when they agreed to refer the subject to arbitration after the failure to reach an acceptable negotiatory solution. It is not in the interest of Israel to raise doubts about its willingness to fulfill its obligations. Israel knows very well that the effective means to establish and spread peace is through the honoring of pledges and accords and adherence to legitimacy and the rule of law. In the absence of this, there will be no genuine basis for relations among nations. However, for its part, Egypt has taken all the precautions to secure its rights and preserve its interests. I have no doubt that soon we will all celebrate the hoisting of victorious Egypt's flag over that chaste spot of Egypt's blessed soil. [applause] The second event witnessed by the country in the past few months was the considerable improvement in the water level of the eternal Nile River after years of drought and hardships. Thank God. Those years had threatened Egypt with grave consequences and heavy loss. The will of the Almighty, who mentioned his beloved land of Egypt in his wise book, has been to save Egypt from these dangers and bring about prosperity after hardship. This experience has brought to light the essence of this great people who rose to the level of responsibility and began dealing with the various possibilities with full awareness. They accepted the measures taken by the government to rationalize water consumption. The loyalty of the great people was rewarded by the flood of the great Nile.

Then comes the third event to further our pride in being Egyptian, in our sublime heritage and civilization, and in our faith in our continued ability to sacrifice and our belief that Egyptian sacrifice is primarily humanitarian because it is based on sublime principles, values, and tolerance. It is free of self-deception and fanaticism. Hence, it was natural for the world to admit Egyptian giftedness and glorify Egyptian genius. It was also natural that Najib Mahfuz personified this admission. He is a genuine Egyptian and a sublime Arab in whom we take pride. He has enriched Arabic culture with his thoughts and his pen, and brought happiness to his nation when he expressed its values and ideals in full honesty and with a gifted ability. He expressed his nation's message both in the past and present. Every word he wrote was a torchlight and a brilliant beacon recalling the glories of the ancient Egyptians and Arabs who made the greatest achievements in the fields of science and knowledge.

When Egypt celebrated this great thinker's winning the Nobel prize a few days ago, it was clear that every Egyptian and Arab felt that he himself had won the prize,

and that Najib Mahfuz is a true symbol of the Egyptian identity in his modesty, his peerless tolerance, and his close association with his homeland and people.

Brothers and sisters: Your previous session in this legislative period under this dome was an inseparable part of the renaissance. You all took part in that session, majority and minority alike, in a genuine democratic spirit which further contributes to construction and responds to the will of the nation. That session was alive with considerable legislative activity, represented by the quantity of important legislation issued after a thorough study and an effective and conscientious dialogue. It was also marked by the positive exercise of the controlling role on the widest scale. It was filled with a large number of enquiries, questions, and queries. This proves to everyone that we are taking giant steps along our democratic road, and that the people—represented in you—are truly taking part in the decisionmaking process. This is the essence of democracy.

The democratic structure has been strengthened by the formation of the parties. It was natural that certain obstacles were encountered at first. Then the situation returned to normal and free elections were held. The last of these resulted in the formation of this assembly, in which the opposition occupies more seats than ever before in the Egyptian parliament in over 60 years of history. Party newspapers operate with full freedom of expression and without the least restriction or control. The word spread its light, presenting the people with ideas and thoughts of every kind. The writer became the master of his own pen and democratic life in Egypt became an example to be followed and a living entity recognized by all, near and far. Only a malevolent or ungrateful person could deny this, and only those pursuing personal interests could harm it.

Therefore, I hope you will tolerate my frankness. I find it painful, as any citizen who cares about the destiny of his country would find it painful, that once in a while we hear Egyptian voices from people who enjoy their full right to talk, meet, and express their views and yet are trying, despite all this, to harm democracy and describe it in ways that they know to be unjust. It is strange that some people allow themselves to repeat allegations that Egypt is governed by a totalitarian regime. I do not know what logic justifies this claim. I truly do not know. On what constitutional basis do they propound such falsity? We all know that at sessions held in this hall before the 23 July revolution only one opposition member was present. Yes, only one opposition member, in contrast to the majority which occupied all the seats. How then can they say that totalitarianism is the approach of the present regime? How can they think this? How can they say that Egypt is governed by a single party today, when various parties are represented throughout Egypt, when party newspapers come out every day, when meetings are held with or without a reason, when views are exchanged in dialogues, and when the freedom of expression is not curbed? If some want to describe the rule of the majority as totalitarianism and absolutism, this is a true denial of democratic life. It is a blatant attack on democracy.

It is the people who decide and choose. It is the voices of the free millions which determine the majority and minority. We have to accept the decision and the choice of the people if we truly believe in democracy, and if we are worthy of raising its slogan. We have to respect the wishes of the millions if we truly want to build democracy. You, majority and minority alike, occupy these seats by the will of the people. The will of the people is above everyone. [applause]

If a certain party fails to win the number of seats it dreams of under this democratic practice, as happens in all democratic countries of the world, its only resort is to continue trying to convince the people who have the final say. It has to convince the people that it truly expresses their concerns, hopes, and aspirations. It has to do that through honest words, legal means, and good examples, and with a true awareness of its responsibility. The higher interests of the homeland make it impossible to turn public service into a means of instigation and false oneupmanship. Nations can only progress if their sons work faithfully for the sake of God and the homeland, seeking only prosperity and welfare, without selfishness or opportunism.

It is the right of all, supporters or opposition alike—or perhaps I should say it is their duty—to raise any issue or problems they wish, and compete in proposing solutions for them. This is the basic job of democracy. Sisters and brothers, the problems we are facing do not relate to a specific government. They are not problems which affect the majority only, and not the minority. Rather, they are problems which face Egypt as a whole. They face this generation and the coming ones, and people of all ages and creeds, in the village and in the city. It is the duty of all the parties to present their views and to use their ability and experience to discover causes and solutions. If the ruling party controls the executive power, opposition parties must take part in the decisionmaking. Democracy does not allow parties outside the regime to be mere spectators, exploiters of economic crisis in the country, or persons who profit from the suffering of the masses, as though those ruling the country were rivals in a vendetta or a group of enemies.

Since my approach to you has always been marked by truth and frankness, I should note that there has been a turn toward objectivity in many partisan newspapers. Some of these papers now publish objective views—constantly under consideration and study. [applause] Who among us does not want a society able to surmount the difficulties, achieve successes, and pave the way for a better life for each citizen? I hope this is the approach supported by all the groupings and parties, because I do not think the general cicumstances permit any other approach, and I do not believe that democracy can develop and flourish without it. I follow many of the

debates that take place in this hall, and I was pleased to hear mature and sound views from both the majority and the minority when they were discussing certain public topics. This is the way things should be. Here you represent all of Egypt, and all your opinions must be for the good of all the sons of Egypt. We all must rally behind our national objectives. Being in power does not mean that one is entitled to privileges, nor does it mean that a certain group is favored over another. The responsibility of ruling is assigned by the people, and it is not degrading to anyone's prestige, patriotism, or standing to wage the struggle while not in power. It is, rather, a matter of pride for anyone who is in this position, and it puts him on an equal footing with those who are in office. A citizen is of better standing than another only by being more dedicated to work and by giving a good example for others to follow. We all share the same responsibility because we all face a common destiny. We have major issues ahead of us at this stage that require an objective and sincere contribution from everyone. Only by doing our part will we be living up to the demands of the situation.

We all agree that the first issue we have to deal with is the economic problem. It would be unjust to say that this problem was created deliberately or that a certain regime was responsible for it. It is the outcome of circumstances that have accumulated over long years, going back to the early forties. No one can deny that international factors have contributed to the existence of this major problem both in the advanced industrial states and in the poor developing countries, though the latter, the poor ones, have endured most of the burden caused by this problem. You remember that since the people honored me with the responsibility, I have adopted a national approach to get to the root of the problem and find effective ways to confront it. I invited Egypt's experts and leading economists to a comprehensive national conference in which the various ideas were brought together and the different concepts and approaches presented. If the diagnosis and analysis of the problem differed, they all agreed on the basic elements of any approach to the problem. We wasted no time in seeking the right course for economic reform—represented in a specific framework—so that reform should begin with the economic structure itself and all reformative steps be taken according to a previously designed concept. Hence the first 5-year development plan was drawn up, and we moved to the second 5-year plan—now in its 2d year. We did this after we realized the need to commit ourselves to a general plan in which the objectives are clear and obvious and the commitments and responsibilities are properly defined.

It would be useful to take a quick look at the recent past, so that we can remember what should not be forgotten. In short, our factories had been suffering from old and faulty equipment and a lack of materials. Telephone and telegraph lines were worn out and defective. There were no communications between neighbors or cities. Egypt's communications with the outside world were almost non-existent. Roads and means of transport were in pathetic condition. Cairo and other major cities were threatened with the most dangerous epidemics because of the complete collapse of all sanitary drainage and potable water utilities. The electricity supply was suffering, and no part of Egypt was free of the threat of continuous electric power cuts. The services available to the masses were the main problem of the masses. I do not want to elaborate on this, because no one can forget these tragedies which we suffered night and day and which were a burden for all of us. Then we embarked on a great work. It was a great undertaking by any standards, as was admitted by all international organizations which follow our economic progress. We spent billions in local and foreign currency. The whole country, from east to west, became a mass of cells of relentless and concentrated action, until we managed to lay the proper solid foundation for reform.

Yes, this was a great awakening. We turned to the path of renaissance. I have no need to reiterate the huge accomplishments we and the people achieved. I have no need to detail them in uncontestable figures. These accomplishments have become established facts which every citizen experiences daily and reaps their fruit to the extent that some can no longer visualize how matters stood before this comprehensive reform.

We then entered the second stage of the confrontation. We were bound to come across new obstacles. We had nothing to do with these obstacles or their deterioration. We did this at the same time we were confronting the vestiges of the old obstacles. We are still struggling to eliminate their harmful effects and liquidate their implications. As you know, I put all the facts to the people, no more, no less, in order that every citizen should know his way to participation and confrontation. This is indispensable for the prosperity and consolidation of democracy and for converting it from a raised slogan to a tangible reality. I can very sincerely say that we have passed through one of the most difficult stages in our contemporary life. We have overcome extremely harsh and difficult obstacles. It remains for us to confront other obstacles with the same determination and success. Perhaps, what is more important is that the doors of hope are open wide for us and that the future does not provoke despair and frustration. Indeed it is full of hope and expectation, provided that we maintain our visualization of the national goals and continue to insist on collective participation in assuming the burdens, each according to his ability and resources, in order to turn Egyptian society into a family of citizens, not an arena for spectators and seekers of personal interests.

This is not the place to speak in detail about the factors which led to this disturbance between our revenues and burdens, particularly the shortage in our revenues of the hard currency we need to buy indispensable basic commodities—both the production requirements and the necessary foodstuffs. It is enough to refer to the increase in the price of wheat this year from $96 to $149 per ton.

The price of maize has climbed from $84 per ton to $132. The price of sugar rose from $171 per ton to $306. These are some examples; you can see what I mean. In the meantime, oil prices deteriorated to their lowest level in over 15 years. The drop in this year's oil revenues will amount to 2,746 million pounds, in other words $100 million, a dollar a barrel.

The burden of debt repayments and interest payment continued to be one of our concerns and problems, despite the agreement on rescheduling due debts. You know that we are not alone in this suffocating problem, we share it with the majority of Third World countries. It is enough to know that the total debts of these countries amount to $1,200 billion. It is undoubtedly high time that the international community tackled this problem in a decisive manner, not only because this is essential if developing countries are to be able to embark on the battle for development which is vital for their survival, but also because the necessary balance must be maintained in the world economic system, so that we can guarantee a continued flow of trade between producers and consumers of raw material and finished goods. In other words, a solution of the problem of indebtedness is necessary for the entire world community, and not only for a limited group of countries. From this rostrum, I say this to the whole world.

The recognition of this fact may have been the motive of Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah when, during the recent UN session, he invited all countries to arrive at a just formula for settling this problem. He urged creditor countries to write off part of the debts, cancel interest due on the rest [applause], and divide the remainder into installments to be paid on a long-term basis. This was the proposal presented by the Kuwaiti amir at the UN session last September. It was wonderful that such a proposal should be made by the president of a creditor country, not a debtor country. He gave an example of a general sense of responsibility and rose above the level of personal interests and narrow vision.

Furthermore, French President Francois Mitterrand, who is a statesman of clear vision and great wisdom, made a similar proposal from the same rostrum, which we acknowledge with admiration and appreciation. [applause] We hope all the creditor nations will be responsive to this spirit and will make a bold move that will enable the world community to overcome this increasing danger.

None of us is unaware of the fact that population growth rates in Egypt are still high, so much so that they threaten to strangle reform and development efforts. I hope you agree with me on this. These rates also exhaust the government's capabilities to raise the standard of services rendered to the public. It is enough to note here that the state subsidizes, to the tune of eight piasters, every single loaf of bread consumed by the people, and we can imagine the gravity of the mounting burden resulting from subsidizing this vital commodity alone. I hope there will be no rumors about increasing bread prices. I am merely putting you in the picture so that everyone will be aware of the fact. I hope there will be no headlines reporting that the government is going to increase bread prices. I am not twisting words. I am speaking quite clearly. If I wanted to raise the price I would have said so.

Despite all these obstacles and difficulties, through sound planning and strong will we have been able to achieve many things, some of which we have reviewed together. What is left for me now is to outline for you the most important accomplishments of the last fiscal year. Our measures within the framework of the economic reform policy have succeeded. We consider such measures a cornerstone of our national goals. Any analyst can see the success of this policy from the following indications:

First: The balance of payments deficit decreased last year by 583 million pounds. This is an unprecedented phenomenon in our recent history;

Second: Egypt was able to pay for 86 percent of its imports in cash last year. You will be surprised and say: How come, did you not say that cash reserves have dwindled? The fact is that we have deferred some of the payments. The percentages in 1986 and 1987 did not exceed 62 percent. The increase in our non-conventional exports last year reached 90 percent, calculated on the basis of the fixed exchange rate;

Fourth [number as heard]: The amount of money in circulation has increased by 5.6 percent, compared to the 11 percent increase in previous years, which was due to inflation. There are economists among you who understand this fact. This increase represents an effective factor in curbing the inflation rate in the future;

Fifth: The output of the industrial public sector has increased by 19.3 percent and this sector's exports have risen by 37 percent. As for the agricultural sector, approximately 153,000 feddans have been reclaimed.

Sixth: Our production of power will increase by 11 billion kilowatt hours this year alone. This is equal to one and one-quarter times what the High Dam produces, or 130 percent of what the High Dam added. This is not the fault of the High Dam. Thus the total electrical power produced in Egypt will reach 56 billion kilowatt hours. This is a mighty leap by all criteria.

Seventh: The number of employed increased by 606,000 persons in the year 1987-88 alone. The private sector takes credit for the major part of this increase. It absorbed 232,000 persons compared with 74,000 persons who joined the labor force in the public sector. We have thus begun a radical reform of the employment structure in Egypt.

Eighth: The net revenue of the tourism sector alone amounted to $884 million last year compared with no more than $380 million in the preceding year.

Ninth: All this has been achieved at a time when the size and standard of services to the citizens improved. It is enough to say that 96 percent of the children who reached school-age were admitted. The number of children who began elementary education reached 1.249 million. May God keep, bless, and increase them. Interest in technical education and scientific studies has achieved a real leap. The number of students at the technical institutes reached 65.7 thousand last year when this figure did not exeed 27.4 thousand students in 1981-82. The number of students more than doubled. The number of students admitted to applied sciences colleges increased from 28.2 thousand to 39.2 thousand.

In the housing sector, 173,000 housing units were constructed last year alone. The annual average did not exceed 18,000 units during the quarter of the century after the outbreak of the revolution.

In the field of social insurance, the number of persons insured reached 13 million Egyptians at the end of fiscal year 1987-88. [applause] The total sum of insurance allowances paid to them amounted to 1.706 billion pounds compared with about 1.4 billion pounds spend in the preceding year.

Brother and sisters, from all this we can reach two important conclusions from which to learn many lessons. The first conclusion is that our economic perfomance has noticeably improved within the framework of the comprehensive reform program, which is not limited to measures taken here and there but which represents an integrated policy with defined dimensions and goals. Therefore, it is possible to achieve economic reform. This is not a miracle if we have the will to continue this great national work and if every citizen does his work sincerely, seriously, and confidently.

The way is open for whoever wants to work, for whoever wants to contribute and add something new, and for those good-hearted ones with good intentions and sincere patriotic feelings. For as long as it will take to complete the reform process, we must realize very well that this process will not bear fruit overnight, but could take years, because it is a complicated process in which several factors are interwined, and which is governed by a number of elements which are sometimes contradictory and conflicting.

The second result which we could deduce from our success so far in the field of economic reform is that we can look to the future with much hope and be optimistic about ourselves and our homeland. We can be certain that tomorrow will be better than today, and it will surely be better than yesterday, although some people do not recall the dilapidated conditions that the country witnessed some time ago, whose effects and complications we still suffer from today.

All this, brothers and sisters, does not prevent us from admitting that there are still some problems to be tackled. It is the duty of all of us, both the rulers and the ruled, the majority and the opposition, to rally together to confront these problems, because public causes are by nature national issues that need to be addressed by all of us, whether positively or negatively. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to take part in tackling these problems and in strongly confronting their complications.

At this point, I would like to refer particularly to those problems which affect the vast majority of the citizens and are much on their minds, and as such, they receive the utmost attention from the state's official institutions and departments.

The first of these problems is the unjustified and, in some cases, exaggerated and artificial increase in the prices of some basic commodities. It is a problem that each and every Egyptian family suffers from, although it is more severely felt by the low-income families and those who have heavy family burdens. Some who simplify things think that the effective solution to this problem is to raise wages by the same percentage as the price increase. This is a false statement, both in theory and practice, which is negated by the facts manifest around us in several countries throughout the world.

No country has managed to link wages fully and completely with price fluctuations. All they have managed to do is achieve a partial link between these two factors. In this respect, advanced and rich countries are no different from developing countries with various economic systems. Therefore, a number of other measures must be taken to curb these price increases and reduce the burden they represent for the low-income groups.

The most important of these measures is the establishment of institutions or associations for agricultural producers to undertake the marketing and distribution of their products without resorting to middlemen who, motivated by greed, inflate prices in a manner which bears no relation to increasing production costs. Trade unions can contribute to the establishment of such associations, and banks and finance agencies can provide them with the necessary capital to enable them to perform their duty. When the banks grant loans, they should pay the money to the project itself and not to individuals to spend it as they wish.

This does not invalidate the role of the citizens in fighting the greed and overpricing of merchants, because government organs, no matter how active or dedicated they may be, cannot undertake the responsibility alone.

There must be participation in the search for solutions for problems in the various stages, in the implementation of these solutions, and in the control of this implementation.

There is no alternative to a positive and active role for every citizen in all these stages, so that the entire country can become a unified and cohesive front, moving in harmony. In this respect, we have the pioneering experiment of the housewives associations, carried out by good national elements who took the initiative and stood up to merchants' greed. It is society's duty to provide such associations with every possible help and support, and to follow the example of this successful experiment in many workfields.

In the meantime, wages must be raised within limits which will not disturb the balance of production economics, or go against the necessities of economic reform. On this basis, wages and pensions were raised by 20 percent in June 1987, apart from regular raises. Wages were again increased by 15 percent as of July 1988. Of course, prices have increased slightly. Now that you get more money, you consume more. You must not spend more than you earn.

I have asked the government to propose a comprehensive reform of the wage system, which I hope will be submitted to your esteemed Council during this session for discussion and approval. [applause] However, if this wage increase is not accompanied by an increase in output, prices will double. Let this be known to you so that no one will complain. The aim of this program is to comprehensively reconsider the public service, whether in the government or in the public sector, to raise the standard of this service and increase its productivity. I underline productivity.

After this comes the problem of unemployment and the desperate need to find job opportunities for our many sons who reach working age or complete their schooling each year. As I mentioned a few moments ago, the Egyptian private sector has begun to play a big role in employing youths and new graduates. This is a good development that will benefit the national economy and social stability. Furthermore, it wil help create a positive image of this sector and its representatives. As long as the private sector in Egypt continues to grow, its role in solving the problems of unemployment and production is bound to expand.

In addition to this, it is necessary to pay more attention to small industries. I saw these industries in the Al-'Amiriyah al-Jadidah 2 days ago. These industries represent greatest potential for absorbing new labor without large costs, especially in rural areas, and we are aware of the successful experiences of several Asian countries in this respect. These countries have achieved a great leap in the industrial field.

What enhances the public sector's capability to absorb the labor force is our expansion in manufacturing production equipment and instruments. This is an area in which we had deservedly proven our success in past years. We have begun producing electric power generating plants and manufactured 250 water desalination plants. Moreover, a new sugar factory is currently being assembled—an Egyptian production, whose cost is 40 percent lower than that of a similar imported one. [applause] We have also succeeded in manufacturing trucks, passenger vehicles, and agricultural tractors. Therefore, all government and public sector companies have received instructions not to import any production machine which we are able to manufacture locally. This measure will allow us to cut down on foreign loans.

I do not need to reiterate the state's commitment to providing more incentives for Egyptian, Arab, and foreign investors. All government bodies and institutions must realize that they should serve the investor because the latter contributes to increased production and exports, provides new job oppotunities for Egyptian youths, and brings the latest technology to the industry, agriculture, and services fields.

Moreover, I have instructed the government to study the possibility of establishing private funds to undertake the financing of basic development projects, particularly social ones, as has happened in countries which have similar conditions.

One of the problems which the state will be sure to tackle in the coming stage is that arising from the stand taken by certain capital investment companies. We know that many Egyptian families, including low-income ones, are very concerned because of the loss which they fear they might suffer as a result of the fraudulent behavior of the heads of these companies, and their dissipation of large amounts of deposits which, for many citizens, represent the balance required for meeting the necessities of life. However, it is strange that, even after the law was issued, some people have still deposited money. We pointed out from the beginning that we are not against these companies. We wanted to make this clear. However, we are against their inflicting any harm on the depositors and against their tampering with citizens' deposits. Therefore, your assembly passed Law 146 for the year 1988, outlining the organizational structure of these companies in a manner which guarantees the rights of those dealing with them, particularly depositors, and integrates them into the national economy.

The deadline set by the law for determining the status of these companies and finding out whether they are seriously seeking to adjust their conditions according to the provisions of this law has passed. It is incumbent on everyone who has undertaken the responsibility for running these companies or steering their policy to respond to the state's eforts to protect the rights of the depositors. If they hesitate in this, the state has the authority and the means to reserve the rights of its

citizens and limit their losses. [applause] I repeat that the state has the authority and the means to protect the rights of its citizens and limit their losses, and to force the companies concerned to respect the provisions of the law.

I would like to assure every citizen that the state is exerting its utmost efforts to see that no one's rights are lost. It will mercilessly use any methods to keep track of these companies' funds and property at home and abroad [applause] to protect the citizens' rights. It must also be clear that we will not permit or ignore any conduct which enables anyone, whoever he may be [applause], to obtain sums of money... [Prolonged applause—Mubarak changes thought] But do not heed the rumors. You do not know the facts. We do. We know the facts. They are no secret. However, I tell you that I too hear these rumors, as you do, and 90 percent of them are (?baseless) and are aimed at defamation.

It must also be clear that we will not permit or ignore any conduct which enables anyone, whoever he may be, to obtain sums of money which he does not legitimately deserve. The competent organs will thoroughly study the conditions governing these companies and the actions of those responsible for them. In brief, all those who occupied responsible positions in these companies or obtained privileges which are not justified by the law will not be able to deceive the state and its institutions, although they might have succeeded in deceiving thousands of citizens. If any throats are to be cut it will be done according to the law. If we were to cut throats without observing the law, then we would be following the totalitarian system.

These are the state's worries and I know well that they are the worries and preoccupation of all of you. You are the representatives of the people, sharing their pains and aspirations, defending their rights and interests, and expressing their demands and ambitions.

National action can only flourish and be consolidated if it is built on a solid basis of values and fine ethics which motivate people to be faithful in their work, preserve society's rights, protect public funds, insist on the cleanliness of land and heart, and deepen the sense of affiliation to and integration in society. These are all ethics derived from spiritual values and divine guidance.

Therefore, while going through these critical stages of national action, it is our duty to work for the spread of the correct religious concepts among the new generations. This may lead to the raising of a generation which is protected from mistakes and inspired with the spirit of loyalty and affiliation. These concepts may teach them tolerance, non-fanaticism, respect for others' rights, social solidarity, and the desire to keep the trust.

Moreover, the major prop for ensuring the success of the general national effort and for enabling the country to achieve progress lies in the stability enjoyed by the country. Without stability there can be no country. I say frankly that I stress the measures taken by the state to protect this stability as a major objective which comes before any other.

Our Armed Forces [applause] are doing their duty in an ideal manner which stresses armament, training, and continuous vigilance as to what is going on around us in this hot zone of the world. They are the shield which protects our national resources against any aggression or any attempt to upset this stability. Greetings from the depth of our hearts to all the fighters and heroes who are always ready to do their sacred duty to defend and safeguard the stability of this homeland, and deter danger, with courage and faith.

The security forces are working round the clock [applause] to make sure that everybody respects the sovereignty of the law. They are the stronghold for all the citizens without discrimination, and they spare no effort to protect society against crime and track down criminals. I believe that the citizens appreciate all this. To those who are used to distorting the image of the security force I say abandon this dangerous game, because the hands of the security forces only strike to safeguard stability and protect sanctities and souls. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council: We regard foreign policy as complementary to domestic policy. Therefore, we employ our foreign policy toward the achievement of development, stability, and progress. We seek to lay down foundations of cooperation and positive dialogue with all countries which show a willingness to respect our sovereignty, rights, and interests.

We have managed to convince friendly nations that the consolidation of Egyptian capabilities is pivotal for the establishment of peace and security in the Middle East. We also have succeeded in convincing these countries of the legitimacy of our need to carry out economic reforms at a pace suitable to the needs and aspirations of our people. Egypt has established its right to effect economic reforms according to the pace and the method best suited to its circumstances and the abilities of its people. You need not listen to any rumors in this respect, regardless of their source.

In other words, there is a human dimension to economic reforms that should not be overlooked. This is because the ultimate goal is to satisfy man's needs and to protect him from fear and deprivation.

Many friendly nations have shown understanding of these principles which we adopted and have accepted the priorities which we set. For example, the United States has financed numerous infrastructure projects, power plants, and basic public services. It suffices to say that, through its aid program, the United States has built 700

of our elementary schools over the past 2 years, and it is expected to build 1,500 of our schools by the end of 1990. This is a simple example.

In addition, friendly European nations have not wasted any opportunity to build bridges of cooperation with us in all fields. We have been cooperating bilaterally and multilaterally with Europe through the EC. The EC will gain new vitality following the cancellation of all customs barriers, which is planned for 1992. This will mean that Europe will stand as a unified economic power with a significant share of the world agricultural and industrial output.

We have discussed the problem of Third World debts with the EC countries and have found substantial understanding among the countries with which our ties are particularly strong, including France, a country with a pioneering role; the FRG, under the leadership of Helmut Kohl; and Italy, a country which maintains specially strong ties with many Mediterranean and Third World nations.

On the other hand, developments in the international arena make it inevitable that the Nonaligned Movement will activate its role and double its contribution to steering such developments for the benefit of all the members of the international community. This Movement was the first to call for an easing of East-West tension and for eliminating the threat of an all-out nuclear confrontation which would destroy everything. Moreover, it is the world grouping concerned with defending the interests of the Third World countries and their right to reap the fruits of the detente between the two superpowers.

A cause for optimism is that Yugoslavia, which has much experience in this field and enjoys a prominent status in the international arena, will chair the Movement as of the beginning of next year.

We also are proud of the constructive and positive role which the brotherly African countries are playing at the world level under the umbrella of the OAU. These countries have proved that they are qualified to contribute to the establishment of a just and stable international community, in which cooperation takes the place of dispute and cautiousness the place of fighting and strife. The best example of this is their objective efforts in connection with the issue of the African countries' accumulated debts. They have adopted a rational approach to this issue, expressing it in the statement issued by the special African summit in November 1987.

At the Arab level, four very important issues are at the focus of attention. The first is the issue of cooperation between Egypt and the various Arab funds to which Egypt has been reinstated. We view this cooperation as one of the major bases of our policy, and a line of action which benefits all in the various fields. Cooperation between us and sister Arab countries is not exclusive to a single field, because the relations between us is a strategic one which covers factors of military, economic, and social strength, and even extends to the issue of Arab national security in its broader sense. On this basis, we are careful to continue consultations and coordination with all sister Arab countries. I also am proud of the meetings which bring me together with the leaders of these countries, whom I regard as partners in the responsibility and companions in the march.

The Arab people in Egypt recently have welcomed visits by heads of sister countries which we hold dearly. They also are proud of the kinship linking us to their people. I mean His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president [applause]; Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Supreme Council in Sudan [applause]; and President Hassan Gouled of Djibouti. [applause] We are looking forward to eminent visits by the servant of the two holy mosques, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; [applause] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad, prince of Qatar; [applause] and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman, prince of Bahrain. [applause]

We hope to welcome the other Arab kings and presidents on the land of Egypt. Moreover, I always enjoy my visits to the fraternal states and the meetings I hold with their leaders in the service of the sublime national interests. In addition to the brother kings and presidents I already have mentioned, my visits so far have included meetings with His Majesty Qabus ibn Sa'id, the sultan of Oman [applause]; His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco [applause]; and North Yemen President Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. [applause]

The second issue is the Iraq-Iran war and the need to determine that the peace efforts will achieve, without delay, their goal of realizing the hopes which the world community attaches to the peace discussions so that the danger of a renewal of the war and fighting between the two parties in a manner threatening all the states in the region can be averted.

On the basis of the intensive contacts, I have held with my brother President Saddam Husayn [applause] in the past few months, I can state that Iraq looks forward and seeks to achieve peace as soon as possible. I also can say that the heroic Iraqi epic will not express itself in threats toward any state in the region or in launching an aggression. Indeed, this epic will be converted into a creative force for building and reconstruction and for directing conditions in the region. We are the first to welcome fraternal Iraq's participation in an effective role in maintaining security and peace in the region, giving momentum to the development efforts, and achieving progress in the various parts of this region. We welcome this participation on the basis of Iraq's rich cultural heritage and its wise and bold leadership, which enjoys a deep sense of historical responsibility and an ability to see the national goals and define their priorities.

The third issue is the Palestinian problem. It is the issue of all the Arabs, rather of all the peoples struggling for peace and freedom. The Palestinian people's uprising has come as a sincere expression of a legitimate demand—the termination of the Israeli occupation of the land and the laying down of the foundations of a just and durable peace based on reciprocal recognition of rights and the creation of objective conditions for an imaginative coexistence inspiring the peoples and impelling them toward construction.

We held intensive contacts on this issue last year. They were not confined to the fraternal Arab states but went beyond to include the United States, Soviet Union, PRC, France, United Kingdom, and many EC and Islamic states and nonaligned countries.

I would like to mention in this regard the meeting held last month in Al-'Aqabah between myself, his majesty King Husayn [applause]—a man with immense courage and a sense of responsibility [applause], a man with a perceptive vision of the future and an ability to place supreme pan-Arab interests above all other considerations—and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat [applause] who has proven that he places the true interests of the Paletinian people high above any other consideration.

This meeting must be viewed as the harbinger of renewed Arab action free from the debris and pitfalls of the past, as the beginning of vigorous work which will rekindle hope in the hearts of millions of Palestinians and Jordanians and pave the way to ending foreign occupation. [applause]

At this juncture, Israel should face its responsibilities, reciprocate the true Arab desire to bring peace to the region, and meet the Arabs halfway, to prove its goodwill and its genuine desire for peace. History has taught us that peace is difficult to reconcile with the usurpation of rights, the occupation of land, the violation of law. Similarly, security can hardly be obtained by regional expansion, stockpiling arms, intimidating others, or assuming extreme hardline positions.

Peace can only be achieved by allowing the objective circumstances to emerge, circumstances under which people choose to live together and accept coexistence of their own free will. The more Israel rids itself of the complexes and obstacles of the past, the more it seeks to bring about a future of hope and promise, this generation will be better able to snatch this golden opportunity to establish just peace and exorcise the specter of war, destruction, ruination, and hatred.

The fourth issue is the Lebanese crisis which has assumed grave dimensions after foreign intervention stymied the election of a president, leading to a constitutional vaccuum which threatens all parties and may consolidate the de facto partitioning of this brotherly country. Lebanon has played a distinguished role in enriching cultural life in the Middle East and the Mediterranean since the dawn of civilization. Lebanon is one of the founding states of the Arab League. It has always been our opinion, and it still is, that an Arab summit should be held, after careful arrangements are made, to take the necessary measures to stop deterioration in the situation and to deal with the situation decisively away from timid and half solutions. The fate of nations cannot be left at the mercy of adventures and maneuvers.

Brothers and sisters, in this atmosphere of arduous work, both at home and abroad, and confronted with challenges posed by the economic problem, we find some people who are dissatisfied that we are sparing no efforts in this confrontation. We also find people who are dissatisfied with this energetic activity, which no one can deny, and others who are not satisfied that we are accomplishing anything and overcoming obstacles. These people try by all means to stir up feelings and instigate unlawful acts, which will only distort Egypt's image and undermine the stability that we enjoy and is praised by any impartial observer. However, to these people and to everyone else I say in a straighforward way: We are here in Egypt and not in another country; we live in the land of Egypt and not elsewhere. The Egyptian people will not accept instigation, which will only result in evils. [applause] The Egyptian people will not heed these misleading calls, which from the outside promise compassion but from the inside portend suffering and ruination. The Egyptian people will not be deceived by statements that compromise legitimacy and the supremacy of the law, and undermine stability, which is the mainstay of any edifice, the pillar of any progress, and the basis for any work that seeks to achieve the targets and protect the supreme interests of this homeland.

An honest look would tell anyone with insight that we are taking steps forward every day and that we are doing our best on the right path. If the problems' magnitude is large, we need to live up to the responsibility of the confrontation. If international circumstances put new burdens on our shoulders that are beyond our capacity, we need to rise up with our feet firmly on the ground, accept the challenge, redouble the will of confrontation, and rally together in the same ditch to fight the battle of development and reconstruction. [applause] The ruler is the first among our people to assume the responsibility, and he is always in the forntline of confrontation. I have never been isolated from the heartbeat of the people, and I have never kept myself away from the facts in a closed room reading files. Forget this and wipe it from your minds. Every day, from dawn until very late at night, I sincerely review all executive actions concerning the state's various activities. [applause]

I have never rested on my laurels. Nothing has diverted me from arduous and hard work. In my right hand I have always held a list of the needs of the masses. In my mind

I have always reviewed what we have achieved and what we should achieve within the framework of our careful planning of development projects in all fields.

The people know and appreciate. The people have access to all the facts. What is there to hide when the economic problem is engulfing the whole world, rich and poor states alike, and when this problem is under discussion both on the local and international levels?

I reiterate that we are not interested in engaging in verbal exchanges, eloquent speeches, or political maneuvers. We want work and participation. We want to deal with facts with one certainty; namely, that we are able. We want a continuous exchange of views and ideas for the sake of construction and not destruction.

Your distinguished assembly is called upon to play its supervisory and legislative role. It also is called upon to give bountifully and to be an example.

Brothers, our clear internal and external goals govern our actions in an integrated framework that joins us as a working team, with each one of us according to his capability. All of us know that the road ahead of us is not strewn with roses. It was never strewn with roses for a state that is embarking on reconstruction, renaissance, and an awakening. However, we have always been able to plant flowers in rugged terrain. The Egyptian people's struggle in the past and at present proves this ability.

We are a people who unite in the face of hardships. We are a people whose creative capability and solid nature appear in the face of challenges. We are a people who endure pain, but do not accept defeat. We are a people whose history represents continuous chapters of victorious battles and the gravest challenges.

We are living in an era of challenges. Our resources may be few and our material capabilities may be limited, but our spiritual powers are bountiful and unlimited, and are capable of facing events decisively.

This has been proven by grave events we faced in the past and more recently. Self-struggle is the road for pooling our resources and achieving our objectives. Self-criticism is one aspect of self-struggle. However, self-criticism must not cause us to retreat or hesitate, or give us an excuse to stop moving or revolve around ourselves lost and confused.

Let self-criticism set us on course for rectification. Let it sharpen our ardor and inspire our intentions so that it will brighten the will to confront, challenge, and overcome the difficulties and impossibilities. Nothing is difficult when the will to win is there; the gravest challenges cannot vanquish it. Nothing is impossible for a people that has not been subdued by the ambitions of tyrants and invaders but has dashed these ambitions, triumphed over tyranny, and been the bold guard of freedom and sovereignty.

These are our bright, pure, and white pages that tell all the generations about the struggle of a people that has not bent the knee, has not submitted, and will not take things lightly or lying down. I appeal to every man, wherever he is, to every man and every woman, on our good earth, I appeal to all communities and generations, I appeal to all the conflicting opinions and all the quarreling forces, I appeal to all these to have the spirit of vigilance, unity, and confrontation. This is not the time to jostle over a gain or a position. This is not the place to demolish construction or extinguish the candles. This is not the time for backstabbing or blaming errors on others. Any jostling should be over the course of construction. Personal gains do not build and positions do not make men. All hands must carry the flaming torches that will illuminate the course of construction. Let each one of us light a candle so that we may see each other with affectionate eyes and with hearts full of brotherhood and closeness. [applause]

It is in the work place that there must be accord, that all must rally round, that errors must be discovered so that they may be rectified in the endeavor for perfection. There are splendid examples and brilliant models in our country of self-denial, good cooperation, and rallying for the common good. We find these examples and models in many places all over our country. They are producing, bearing fruit, expanding and growing, achieving the highest levels of production, and breaking into new areas with the most modern technology in the world. But some among us look on this magnificent vanguard—which constitutes the vision of the bright future—and, using a magnifying glass, only see shortages. This is the outlook of those who lack zeal and even want hearts to stop beating and breathing and die.

I tell our young people: Be careful not to think like this. Do not heed the claims of failure; be fully aware that society is moving and will not stop, that the wheel is continuously turning, and that the procession of light is advancing whatever the obstacles. [applause]

Our collective work is aimed at speeding up action and at acheving better and more successful progress. However, there is no work that is free of obstacles. Construction cannot be achieved without an effort and hopes cannot be fulfilled by negligent indolence. No nation on earth has established its presence and achieved an entity except by arduous work to overcome obstacles, by the utilization of every sincere effort for construction, and by the fulfilment of broad hopes through resolve, action, and insistence on advancement and success.

Machines alone cannot do the work, building alone cannot create life, knowledge alone cannot lead to achievements, planning alone cannot make the present and the future. Besides all the tools of construction, there is the human being. It is the human being who has created the machine, has constructed the building, has armed himself with knowledge, and has planned for his present and future. It is the human being who leads,

works, and marches forward. It is the Egyptian human being who achieved the miracle victory in the immortal October war. [applause]. It is the Egyptian human being who built the cities on the canal, who established peace by his own power and reinforced it and protected it. It is the Egyptian human being who built the High Dam and secured his country against the most dangerous catastrophes of drought. [applause] It is the Egyptian human being who operated the Suez Canal after it was nationalized and who triumphed over the most difficult challenges [applause], crushed ferocious international plots, and astonished the world by his capabilities and willpower. It is the Egyptian human being who is establishing thousands of factories and farms. It is the Egyptian human being who has manifested his ingenuity in the various fields of sciences and arts in all the countries of the world. It is the Egyptian human being who has constructed and built in all the Arab countries. This human being will never stand still in a blind alley.

Let us evaluate ourselves properly without exaggeration or conceit. Let us mobilize all our capabilities in coordinated and integrated action. Let us advance with the spirit of the revolution which has changed the map of society and opened up opportunities for an honorable life for the millions [appaluse] who were deprived for centuries of their right to education, health care, and services. Let us advance with the spirit of October which has raised the head of the Arab nation sky-high. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, let us advance by the light of democracy that is now glowing with justice and freedom, rule by consultation, and respect for the humanity of mankind. Let us direct all our capabilities toward elevating Egypt and consequently ourselves. We have colossal and lofty work ahead of us. We have noble and sublime goals ahead of us, always. Whoever obstructs this work by making unlawful gains or engaging in sinful exploitation does not belong to this nation. Whoever tarnishes these goals with lies and calls for despair and surrender is a destructive element who will have no part in the process of work and construction.

The people have now taken the reins of responsibility into their hands and are exercising freedom of action faithfully and with determination. The people now realize that they are participating in work-related matters and in correct and dutiful decisionmaking. All the doors have now been opened to the people so that they may express and establish themselves under the canopy of legitimacy and the supremacy of the law. The people will never be defeated and the will of the people will never wane. May Almighty God help us all to achieve what is good and right, guide us to the path of success, and give us more strength to go forward so that we may build and construct, triumph and not surrender, and always build higher so as to achieve our aspirations. He listens and responds. May peace and God's blessings and mercy be upon you. [applause]

Mubarak on Peace Conference, Bush, PNC Meeting

NC1011144888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak replied to journalists' questions on the international conference on peace in the Middle East and the PNC meeting after delivering his speech at the opening of the new session of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council today.

The president was asked about the conservatism shown by newly elected U.S. President George Bush regarding the convening of the international conference. It is said that certain Arab countries fear this conservatism. The president said we must not rush things with the new U.S. president, because the Reagan administration is still in power. Mubarak added: We have to wait until the new president assumes his post. Only then can we start thinking about these things instead of jumping to conclusions, he said.

Responding to another question concerning the PNC meeting on Saturday, the president said: I hope the PNC will make rational decisions which serve the issue instead of leading to further division.

Asked to comment on remarks from Israel that UN Resolution No 181 is viewed as an act to liquidate Israel, he said: Let them say what they want. When Resolution No 181 is presented for discussion, the Palestinians will determine the borders of their state. The president then asked: Can a state be proclaimed without determining its borders? No, he answered, stressing that every state must have borders.

Al-Baz Criticizes Shamir's Statements

NC1511162388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Nov (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and head of President Husni Mubarak's Office for Polital Affairs, has criticized the statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir about his intention to abort the establishment of the Palestinian state. He said that Shamir cannot abort anything, that it is not his prerogative to abort this or that movement, and that he must speak on what he himself can do instead of sabotaging what others are doing.

In statements to correspondents in Al-'Ayn City, Al-Baz said: Shami must do this if he really wants peace. But, to speak about imposing particular Israeli solutions distorts and deforms the Camp David concept, violates it, and falsifies its bases and essence. This is rejected and unacceptable to us.

Al-Baz said Egyptian-Algerian relations are by nature improving and do not need steps to improve them because they are close and warm. He added that Egypt is

very much interested in what is happening in Algeria. He said: Whatever is good for the Algerian people pleases us because this people's stability and ability to achieve their goals of development means stability for the Arab world itself.

U.S. Position on Condemnation of Israel Derided

JN1011202488 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Nov 88 p 7

[Editorial: "A Resolution and a Position"]

[Text] The UN General Assembly has passed the strongest condemnation of Israel for its bestial repressive measures against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This took place through a resolution that details the number of crimes committed against the Palestinian inhabitants.

Although 16 countries abstained, which in itself is incomprehensible so long as the picture of human rights violations is explicitly clear, the resolution was passed with an overwhelming majority of 130 countries, while 2 countries, the United States and Israel, opposed it. We understand the Israeli stand, but the U.S. stand cannot be reasonably justified by anyone, and the reasons on which the U.S. representative based his stand seem very fragile.

No one understands how the resolution can obstruct the peace efforts in the region. The essence of the peace efforts seek to end occupation, as it is the most important cause of all the disturbances, not to mention that it is a state which violates all this era's concepts, principles, laws, and international norms and has been rejected and condemned throughout history. This being the case, how can Israel perpetuate this occupation, and with bestial violence too, while its condemnation by the international community is considered an obstruction of peace? Perpetuation of this occupation in such an oppresive manner is what obstructs peace. Those who persistently call for peace efforts, including the United States, surely realize that these efforts depend on a change of the Israeli stand and on Israel's renouncing the operations of occupation, annexation, and mergers.

But to describe the resolution as unbalanced because it condemns Israel and not the violence committed by the other party involves gross falsification of the facts. What violence can be attributed to the groups of youths who have long suffered from occupation and have been afflicted by the loss of their relatives, properties, their present, and their future and could find nothing but stones to throw from afar to vent their indignation and anger, they who are cornered like rats? How can one compare the violence of the helpless who has nothing to the violence of the dominant tyrant who has everything and imposes his oppression by all deadly means?

In spite of this, and according to the U.S. justification, Washington does not approve of the continuation of the current state of affairs and calls for a solution through direct negotiations. What solution is possible so long as the oppressor is left to his own devices and overtly calls for the "solution" of the uprising first by all bloody methods?

Libya

Envoy Meets UN Leader, Discusses Ties With Chad

LD1611163188 Tripoli JANA in English 1431 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] New York 16th Al-Harth [November] (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The permanent representative of Great Al-Jamahiriyah at the United Nations met yesterday in New York with Mr. J. Perez de Cuellar. The UN secretary general.

Commenting to JANA, this representative says following this meeting that at this meeting an explanation was given to the UN sec. gen. on the promotion of relations between Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Chad.

He adds that a variety of matters on Africa were also deliberated upon, apart from discussing the Arab question and that of peace in the region and worldwide.

Foreign Ministry Communique on Palestine State

LD1511224188 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has issued the following communique.

Proceeding from the unity of Arab destiny, and in affirmation of the right of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination and to set up its own independent state on all Palestinian territory, and in the belief that the struggle with the Zionist enemy is a struggle over existence not over borders, the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, in charge of implementing the decisions of the Basic People's Congress in the foreign policy domain, announces its full recognition of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem, holy city of Jerusalem, as its capital, as an independent and fully sovereign state.

While wishing the Palestinian state and people the realization of all its aspirations and national and pan-Arab objectives, the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah fully stands by and absolutely supports the Palestinian Arab people in the fight for the liberation of all Palestinian territory, a dear part of the greater Arab homeland.

The people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, releasing this communique, will inform the Basic People's Congresses about this measure at their next meetings.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Governor of Sicily

LD1511152788 Tripoli JANA in English 1412 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli Al-Harth [November] 15th, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution has received Mr. R. Nicolosi, governor of Sicily.

Present at this meeting were a number of Italian pressmen. They raised several enquiries on the nature of relations between Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Italy.

Italian Sailors Released

LD1511224688 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Sicilian Governor Rino Nicolosi left Tripoli accompanied by 11 Italian sailors who entered Libyan territorial waters without permission.

The Sicilian governor expressed his full appreciation to the Libyan Arab people and their leader for their compassion and humanity by releasing these sailors, who are now on their way to embrace their families, who are awaiting them impatiently.

He added that this gesture comes at an important moment in which Libyan Arab-Italian relations are witnessing an important move that will have a positive effect so that we can build strong and fruitful relations.

He explained that this humanitarian touch and good gesture by the Libyan Arab people will serve relations and help toward arriving at results through a political action now witnessed in bilateral relations.

One of the released sailors expressed deep gratitude and appreciation to the Libyan Arab people and their leader. He expressed the hope of his colleagues that they would build good relations with the Libyan Arab people. He said they were deeply touched as they made their way home after their release. He said: We are unable to sufficiently thank the Libyan Arab people and the brother leader of the revolution. We hope there will be agreements covering cooperation and serving relations between the Libyan Arab and Italian peoples to overcome all problems and to achieve fruitful cooperation for the sake of the success of these relations.

Before their departure, the released sailors hailed the brother leader of the revolution and warmly applauded this freedom-giving gesture.

Italian radio correspondent Francisco Cosorano, who covered this occasion, said that it was a good occasion to strengthen the relations of friendship between the Libyan and Italian peoples. He hailed the modern achievements of the Libyan Arab people in all fields. He hailed the gesture of the Libyan Arab people in releasing the Italian sailors. He said: It was a good step and we will show the whole world that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is a friend and is very close to the hearts of people who feel that they belong to the oppressed and persecuted classes.

He added that this step will contribute to the development of relations between the two countries. It is a good gesture, demonstrating that the nations of the Mediterranean are friends for the sake of peace.

Morocco

King Hassan Commends 'Arafat on PNC Decision

LD1511232588 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Message from King Hassan II to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat following the declaration of the independent Palestinian state]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander-in-chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution:

The Palestine National Council [PNC] resolution, which provides for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, records a decisive turning in the history of the heroic struggle waged by the Palestinian people for the realization of their natural rights to freedom and independence. The Arab peoples and their leaders who have made the fate of sisterly Palestine their foremost concern for more than half a century salute with pride the ascendance of the Palestinian people to the national and international level, and will always continue their solidarity and support for them.

As for ourselves, while we give the PNC resolution its true value and historic status, we appreciate the intensive efforts exerted by you and your colleagues to achieve this resolution.

Finally, we believe that this resolution is the inevitable result of the Palestinian people's struggle for the liberation of their occupied land and we confirm our firm and assured determination to continue our work until the independence of Palestine becomes a tangible reality. And please accept, brother, our highest esteem.

Your brother,

[Signed] Hassan II, King of Morocco

King Hassan Receives Libya's Al-Humaydi

LD1511163988 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received [no date as heard] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the revolutionary leadership in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and envoy of President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Comments on Visit to Libya

EA1511231488 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1320 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] After returning from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that his visit to the Jamahiriyah was within the framework of relations between the two countries in various fields which have been discussed and where viewpoints are similar. Mr al-Mahdi said that in this respect, a Libyan delegation, headed by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis, general commander of the Libyan Arab Forces, will visit Sudan on 29 November after a visit around Darfur, to examine different agreements and settle them.

He said that his discussion with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi included setting the agenda of this joint effort which will be settled through agreements between the two sides during Col Abu Bakr Yunis' visit. The prime minister affirmed that he did not discuss the issue of unity between the countries as this issue has been proposed to the political parties and will be submitted to the Council of Ministers after that to be examined within the mutual framework [as received], and a decision will be taken to implement it.

He said that he had not been accompanied by a ministerial delegation because the visit was so short. He was accompanied by officials from the Bank of Sudan and the Defense Ministry. The practical participation of ministers will take place after the visit by Col Abu Bakr Yunis.

His excellency rejected the possibility of Col John Garang having visited Libya already and said that President Museveni was the one who visited the Jamahiriyah 2 days ago when a peace plan in the Horn of Africa was discussed in addition to what could be done to implement his plan.

He denied the news that was circulating about Al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Sudan and said: We did not touch on the meeting between John Garang and Al-Mirghani in particular, because it took place within the general framework and the outcome of the meeting is not yet clear.

Government Sources on Al-Numayri Statement

PM1511150488 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Nov 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Khartoum Freezes Ministerial Contacts With Cairo Because of Al-Numayri's Statement"]

[Text] Within the framework of official Sudanese reactions to former Sudanese President Ja'far al-Numayri's recent press statement, which indicates that a diplomatic and political crisis between Sudan and Egypt could erupt and cause behind the scenes moves, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from an authoritative source in Khartoum that the Sudanese Government has decided to freeze its contacts with Egypt at the ministerial level "until Egyptian officials reconsider their position on the activities of former President al-Numayri."

In line with this, State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani has described Al-Numayri's statement as "a political lapse and an act that overrides the will of the Sudanese nations and its leaderships."

Al-Mirghani said: "What Al-Numayri has embarked on sets a dangerous and repugnant precedent against the principle of political asylum, and reflects strong defiance of Sudanese decisionmaking and the impartiality of the Khartoum regime."

Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi emphasized that the Sudanese Foreign Ministry will adopt a measure to express Sudan's position on the statement by former President al-Numayri.

Tunisia

Recognition of Palestinian State Announced

LD1511120388 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The government of the Republic of Tunisia announces its regal recognition of the Palestinian state and reaffirms its support for the Palestinian right as a people, a land, and a state.

President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali conferred at the Republic palace in Carthage this morning with Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, who made the following statement after the meeting: The Tunisian Government recorded with satisfaction and optimism the decision of the PNC to proclaim the establishment of a Palestinian state. While saluting such a historic event, which embodies the will of the struggling Palestinian people and its courageous leadership's will to continue the struggle to recover its inalienable and legitimate right, it announces its support and backing for such an initiative which conforms with the international legitimacy and positively contributes in the peace process in the Middle East.

The government of the Tunisian Republic, while announcing its legal recognition of the Palestinian state and its blessing for this decisive step, reaffirms anew its support for the Palestinian right, the people, the land, and the state. The government takes the opportunity of the occasion of the birth of the Palestinian state to send greetings of admiration to the heroes of the intifadah in their fantastic struggle, their commitment to principles, and their heroic steadfastness. Tunisia, which has always believed in the righteousness of the Palestinian cause and has always supported it, sends at this good occasion its sincere congratulations to the great people of the intifadah and to its wise leadership, represented by the PLO, its sole and legitimate representative.

Bahrain

Foreign Ministry Source Hails PNC Decision

JN1511192288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, 15 Nov (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has welcomed the PNC's decision to establish a Palestinian state and hailed this historic event, which embodies the will of the militant Palestinian people to continue the struggle to regain their legitimate rights. This came in a statement made by a responsible source at the Bahraini Foreign Ministry. Following is the text of that statement:

"The State of Bahrain welcomes the PNC's decision to declare the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on their national soil, blesses this step, and announces its full recognition of the independent Palestinian state. Bahrain hails this historic event, which represents the will of the militant Palestinian people to continue the struggle to regain their legitimate rights."

Kuwait

Prime Minister Pledges Support for PNC Decision

LD1611003988 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, telephoned his brother, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in Algiers tonight.

His highness expressed the support of Kuwait—amir, government, and people—for the decisions made by the Palestine National Council in Algiers regarding the Palestinian cause, which is our cause. His highness reaffirmed Kuwait's firm support for the legitimate rights of the fraternal Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Minister Addresses Cabinet on PNC, Other Issues

LD1311212288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1347 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 13 (KUNA)—Kuwait reiterated Sunday its support and stable stance toward the Palestinian cause and expressed confidence that the PNC extraordinary session would yield practical resolutions to foster the Palestinian struggle and establish the Palestinian state [words indistinct] leadership.

The statement delivered by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid followed the cabinet's weekly meeting under chairmanship of H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah. Al-Rashid stated that results of talks between H.H. the amir and King Husayn of Jordan during his visit to the country last Tuesday, which dealt with the Palestinian uprising, bilateral ties and Arab issues, were reviewed.

The council was also informed on the message H.H. the amir received from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat concerning the Palestinian struggle in the occupied Arab lands.

Al-Rashid added that Shaykh Sa'd reviewed with the council members results of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which H.H. concluded yesterday and talks he held with brothers there topped by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on developing bilateral relations and cooperation, the Gulf situation and peace efforts to achieve stability in the region, ways of backing the Palestinian uprising and efforts targetting a solution to the Lebanese crisis. H.H. expressed appreciation and thanks for the Saudi hospitality during his visit there and informed the cabinet on details of the bilateral agreement the two countries signed on protecting rights of citizens of the two countries in the divided neutral zone.

Shaykh Sa'd also informed the council on the joint ministerial committee that was formed grouping the ministers of foreign affairs, interior and oil from both countries to follow up issues regarding promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields. The cabinet, on its part, praised H.H.'s great efforts and expressed satisfaction that positive results were gained, emphasizing the strong Kuwaiti-Saudi relations and importance of such contacts.

Minister al-Rashid said the council then listened to details from Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir on the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Besharati's visit to the country and the message he conveyed to H.H. the amir. Shaykh Sabah also spoke of his talks with the Iranian official on developments in the Gulf region, Iraq-Iran peace talks and bilateral relations.

Reviewing political affairs and developments in the Arab region, the council followed with concern reports of the Palestine National Council's extraordinary session, convening currently in Algeria, and affirmed Kuwait's support to the Palestinian struggle, he went on.

Confirming Kuwait's concern over peace in the region, the council approved allocation of one million dollars to finance operations of the U.N. observers assigned to monitor the Gulf war truce in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

The council also agreed on donation of another one million dollars to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to enable it to continue with its humanitarian role in assisting the Palestinian people.

Al-Rashid concluded that several local issues were discussed by the council and proper decisions regarding them were taken.

PDRY

Official Declaration Recognizes Palestinian State

EA1611100288 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen today declared its full recognition of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. An official declaration issued today said: The PDRY has received with great appreciation and deep delight news of the declaration of the Palestinian state issued by the 19th Palestine National Council session in Algiers.

The declaration setting up the Palestinian state is an expression of the will of the Palestinian people and a crown to their long heroic role. In it they exercise their historic and legal right according to Arab summit conference resolutions, international legitimacy and UN General Assembly resolutions, all of which confirm the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state led by the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative.

The declaration of a Palestinian state is considered a major historical event in the struggle of the Palestinian people and all Arab peoples. Believing in the legitimate historical right of the struggling Palestinians, and in continuation of its firm and principled stands alongside them, the PDRY has decided to fully recognize the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. It expresses readiness to support the Palestinian state in achieving its aims.

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Reaffirms Support for PLO

LD1511114588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1655 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Al-Madinah, 14 Nov, (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the Council of Ministers meeting this afternoon, Monday, 14 November 1988, in Al-Tayyiba Palace, Al-Madinah.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that at the beginning of the meeting under the king's instructions, the Council was given a summary of the most important reports and events on the Arab scene. Primary among these is the current PNC session. The Council expressed hope that the Palestinian leaders will attain, under 'Arafat's leadership, everything likely to guarantee the achievement of the Palestinian people's just demands and legitimate aspirations.

The information minister continued: On this level, the custodian of the two holy mosques reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's support and absolute backing for any resolution which the PNC agrees on under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and considered it likely to realize its objectives. The Council has been briefed on the report by Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting planning minister, which he submitted after he signed the agreement between the Saudi oil company and Texaco, an American oil and marketing company. The Council was also briefed on comments and analyses of Arab and international media on this agreement—the focus of attention of world economic circles. [passage omitted]

'Responsible Source' Welcomes PNC Resolution

LD1511121388 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] After PLO Chairman Mr Yasir 'Arafat proclaimed the independent Palestinian state, a responsible source stated to SPA the following:

Saudi Arabia has followed with great interest the meetings of the PNC extraordinary session in Algiers. Saudi Arabia welcomes the PNC resolution proclaiming the independent Palestinian state, and considers this step, and what accompanied it, a consolidation of international legitimacy and the resolutions of the Arab summits. Saudi Arabia, as it declares its complete support for these steps, also declares full recognition of the independent Palestinian state.

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Ministry Backs Palestinian State

JN1511190288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Nov (WAKH)—The UAE has announced backing and support for the PNC decision to declare the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

In a Foreign Ministry statement issued this evening, the UAE reiterated that it will spare no effort to support the PNC decision in international forums. The statement added: Due to the UAE's complete faith in the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, its support for the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, and its support for the options adopted by the PLO to realize the objectives and aspirations of the Arab people, the UAE followed with great interest the meetings of the extraordinary PNC session which were held in Algiers.

The statement which was carried by WAM said: While welcoming this step, the UAE announces support and backing for the PNC's decision to proclaim an independent Palestinian state and believes that this step and the other steps accompanying it constitute an enhancement of the international legitimacy and of the Arab summit resolutions.

Heir Apparent Receives Message From 'Arafat Envoy
JN0711183888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1742 GMT 7 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Nov (WAKH)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on current developments in the Palestine question and the importance of the present stage as far as the Arab-Israeli conflict is concerned.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, received the message during his reception of Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, deputy head of the PNC and Fatah Central Committee member, here today.

During the meeting, they discussed all situations dealing with the question of Palestine in light of the latest and current stands, foremost of which is the brave uprising inside the occupied territories and the emergency session of the PNC to be held in the next few days.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah affirmed anew the UAE's support for the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's struggle in their just and legitimate strife to regain their usurped rights. He also affirmed his country's support for any decisions issued by the PLO, since it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Salim al-Za'nun told WAM that his meeting with Shaykh Khalifah provided a chance to brief the latter on current developments in the Palestinian arena.

AL-BAYAN Editorial on Bush's Election Victory
JN1311174888 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 10 Nov 88 p 1

[Editorial: "After Bush's Victory"]

[Text] No one appears surprised by George Bush's election to the U.S. Presidency. Opinion polls over the past 4 months affirmed that he was considerably ahead of his Democractic rival, Dukakis. This means that U.S. policy will not witness a remarkable change on the domestic or foreign level.

Regarding the issue of interest to us—the Arabs—represented in the Middle East problem, the U.S. position on the Palestinian people's rights, and the extent of U.S. support for the Zionist entity, no one would have expected any change in favor of the Arabs had the Democratic Party won the elections. The candidates of the two parties competed in making promises to Israel, pledging to support it, and stressing the strategic alliance with it—an alliance which the Arabs interpret as a strategic alliance against them and their rights and aspirations. Dukakis promised to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, but the gap between him and his rival was so large that such a generous promise could not narrow that gap.

The only positive factor in Bush's victory is that the U.S. Administration cannot claim that it needs time to study the Middle East file, not only because he was vice president for the past 8 years, but also because he maintained direct contacts with the sides in the conflict,its developments, and initiatives launched on it throughout these years.

Although the Arabs' lengthy experience with the Reagan-Bush Administration does not give us much hope for remarkable change, we still hope that Bush has benefited from the experience and has realized that the United States has lost much of its credibility and will lose much more due to its blind bias toward Israel and its indifference to Israel's crimes.

Yemen Arab Republic

Government Announces Support for PNC Decision
JN1511141288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The YAR has followed with great interest the activities and work of the PNC, which is holding its 19th extraordinary session in fraternal Algeria. As it expresses satisfaction with the resulting unity of Palestinian ranks on the fateful issue—also the Arab nation's central issue—the YAR would like to stress its firm position and support for the full rights of the Palestinian people and for their legitimate struggle to regain their rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on Palestinian soil.

Following the PNC's declaration of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil with holy Jerusalem, and due to the commitment to its firm position and the Fes summit conference resolutions, the YAR announced its full official recognition of the state of Palestine and its support for the state of Palestine and the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle to liberate their lands from Israeli occupation. It also urges all fraternal and friendly countries and the international community to hasten to recognize the state of Palestine and extend support and aid to it and to the Palestinian people to gain their legitimate rights.

General People's Congress Cables PLO's 'Arafat
JN1411210288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The fourth conference of the General People's Congress has sent a cable to the PNC, which is holding its extraordinary session in Algiers. Following is the text of the cable: Honorable Brother Struggler PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat: The convening of the PNC session in

fraternal Algeria and the convening of the fourth conference of the General People's Congress in Sanaa stress the joint will of liberation and struggle of our Yemeni and Palestinian peoples for the Palestine cause, the Arab nation's central issue—of great interest to the fourth conference.

As the fourth conference of the General People's Congress sends this cable to the PNC's extraordinary session, we stress in the name of the militant YAR masses our support for the militant Palestinian masses, who are leading the battle of right and liberation through their proud uprising in the face of the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian lands. The fourth conference of the General People's Congress is following with great interest the meetings of your esteemed PNC, which is holding its extraordinary session, while the masses expect historic results from this meeting. We stress our country's firm positions toward the fraternal Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to establish their independent Palestinian state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. We bless your positive steps, and we wish your PNC every success. We also wish the Palestinian revolution more victories until a complete victory is achieved, God willing.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, President of the Republic, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Secretary General of the General People's Congress, and Chairman of the Fourth Conference

Iraqi Ba'th Party Member Hasan 'Ali Arrives

JN1111171988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] Sanaa, 11 Nov (INA)—Hasan 'Ali, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, arrived here this evening heading a party delegation to attend the meetings of the fourth conference of the General People's Congress, which will begin its work in the YAR capital tomorrow.

In a statement to INA, Hasan 'Ali said: President Saddam Husayn asked me to convey his greetings and best wishes for the success of the conference to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and also his best wishes for progress and prosperity to the Yemeni Arab people.

Hasan 'Ali added that the Ba'th Party's participation in the conference is a manifestation of the developed relations binding the two fraternal states—the relations whose foundations were laid by President Saddam Husayn and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He went on to say that this participation also serves as evidence of the party's interest in learning about Arab experiences.

The delegation was received upon arrival by Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, YAR deputy prime minister and development minister, a number of YAR officials, and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Visits President

JN1311081388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] YAR President Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah received the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation in Sanaa today. The Iraqi delegation—headed by Comrade Hasan 'Ali, Ba'th Party Regional Command member—is currently on a visit to the YAR to participate in the meetings of the fourth conference of the General People's Congress.

During the meeting, Comrade Hasan 'Ali conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to his brother, President 'Ali 'Abdalah Salih, his wishes of success and prosperity to the Yemeni people, and his wishes of success to the General People's Congress. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih asked Comrade Hasan 'Ali to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn and his wishes of success, prosperity, and further victories to the Iraqi people.

The two sides discussed the latest developments in the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran, Iraq's firm stand on the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace that will secure its rights, several Arab and international issues, and how to promote bilateral relations in a manner that will serve the two fraternal people's interests. They also discussed relations between the Ba'th Party in Iraq and the General People's Congress and ways to promote them through exchange of expertise and a search for means to regulate them.

The INA correspondent in Sanaa says that the Ba'th Party delegation was accorded an official reception, the Ba'th Party's speech was the first to be delivered at the General People's Congress, and the Ba'th Party delegation was the first to be received by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Delegation Departs

JN1311141688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Brother Hasan 'Ali, member of the Iraqi RCC and of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, and his delegation left Sanaa at noon today following a visit to our country. He attended part of the fourth general conference of the General People's Congress [GPC]. [passage omitted]

In a statement to SABA' news agency, Brother Hasan 'Ali thanked the GPC for inviting the Ba'th Party to attend its fourth general conference. [passage omitted] He also expressed hope that relations between the GPC and the Ba'th Party will be enhanced. Concluding his statement, Brother Hasan 'Ali explained that he met with the brother president and conveyed to him the greetings of his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his wishes of great success for the conference and progress and prosperity for the Yemeni people.

President Addresses Armed Forces; Urges Peace
JN1511102088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1707 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn at a ceremony in Baghdad on 14 November to decorate Iraqi fighters and to mark the sixth anniversary of the people's declaration of allegiance to him—recorded]

[Excerpts] Hail, all you members of the Armed Forces in this hall, who have had the honor to directly and heroically contribute to the great liberation battles waged by the Armed Forces to liberate our national territories and crush the aggressive invasion forces. [passage omitted]

You have represented the Iraqi people's will power in a most expressive, splendid, and faithful manner on the battlefield. Thus, we have been able to achieve the results for which we thank God over and over today. It is a great honor for each of us to be a part of this phase. We are preceded in this high honor by our righteous martyrs.

It is through these meetings, my comrades, that we view the sacrifices you have made and the sufferings you have endured in a war which lasted for 8 years. This is how we view the Armed Forces. It is also through these meetings that we view your place in our hearts and in history.

You entered the war while its formations consisted of 12 divisions, including the infantry and armored forces. They were 12 divisions in all. There were also a few regiments such as the infantry forces in the northern part of the homeland. They were several independent regiments, but not in large numbers. We also had a powerful and youthful Air Force and Navy. [passage omitted]

Today, God be praised, our people who began with 12 divisions at the beginning of the war, now have about 70 divisions at the end of the war. The entire world has not seen such a development. Neither in World War I or World War II, nor any other war has the world witnessed a country of 19 million people producing 70 or more divisions. We have 77 divisions plus the Presidential Guard Force and two brigades in the Armed Forces. The Presidential Guard is a blessing. We could have formed more than 100 divisions from the Iraqi people and still continued normal life, building, operating industries, and working in the farms with the efforts of Iraqi women, old people who cannot carry arms, and youth who work after school hours. Life could have continued normally and the Armed Forces could have proceeded with the war with more than 100 divisions. Had the war continued, God forbid, we would have reached this figure. We were going ahead with the new formations. We did not stop for a single moment. A few days before the ceasefire, we began forming new formations and the work was completed after the ceasefire.

Now, however, we have begun a demobilization program so Iraqis can enjoy their new life. We hope peace will be permanent. We hope also that the Iranians, as a people, will enjoy lasting peace after they have been scorched by the fire of war and know the meaning of aggression against neighbors. We did not decide to form an army of about 100 divisions for the sake of boasting or aggression. Our people are dear to us. [passage omitted] The Iraqis and Iranians have no choice but to reach real peace. Procrastination benefits no one. Empty talk will get us nowhere, as the saying goes. Iran has its full, free territory, air space, and waters. Iraq also has its full, free territory, air space, and waters. Everyone should live free in his own country. There should be no interference in internal affairs. Iraq should not interfere in Iran's affairs, and Iran should not interfere in Iraq's affairs. No one also should interfere in Arab affairs. Iran must bear this in mind, and other foreigners must bear it in mind, because the phase of interference in other people's internal affairs has gone for good. He who wants to live in peace must be peaceful with the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

He who wants peace must come forward. He must not fear the Iraqis. The Iraqis today do not retain a single inch of Iranian territory. But if Iran thinks that it can get even a single inch of territory as a gain from Iraq, then it must completely remove such an idea from its mind. [passage omitted]

We say the Iraqis and Iranians have no choice but to overcome their conflict and reach an understanding. Whether publicly or otherwise, the main thing is that they must reach an understanding. For our part, we have no ambitions on Iran. At the same time, however, we will not permit Iran to obtain anything through greed or circumstances to which we cannot yield now. We are currently discussing the entrenchement of the ceasefire. The ceasefire is already an established fact, but we want it entrenched so that a single spark will not create a problem for us. We want it entrenched so that the Iranians will not repeat the mistake and the delusion of 4 September 1980. We said the ceasefire must be reached through a chronicled, detailed document, ensuring equal benefit for both sides. We said there must be ceasefire on land, at sea, and in the air. In other words, both sides must benefit from the ceasefire on land, at sea, and in the air. No side should benefit at the expense of the other. You have benefited from your ports and your activities in your waters, because our Air Force and Navy have stopped interfering with or striking at your ships. Therefore, we must also benefit. Regardless of the legal outcome of the talks, both sides should benefit from the use of and navigation in the Shatt al-'Arab. It must be cleared. Why should we wait until all the paragraphs of the resolution have been dealt with? If you can dispense with it, we cannot, unless there is an alternative of course. They are argumentative. They talk a great deal. They like to be stubborn and adamant. Why the stubborness? It is peace that triumphs. [passage omitted] We triumphed over them in the war, and now they want to

triumph in peace. They do not care if their people are hungry, naked, and miserable, crushed by war. The shah's regime cut a piece and they cut 50 pieces. Let them save what is left. They can only save what is left through peace instead of roaming the markets looking for arms. Are they still capable of purchasing weapons. What is the price of oil today? The price is $10.50 per barrel. Before that it was $17 and yet before that $27 or $28. He who does not have a good stockpile of arms will not be able to obtain arms today and change the balance of powers for the foreseeable future. Therefore, they have no choice but to come to an understanding with a party which only has legitimate demands and harbors no evil. On the contrary, it wants to save them from evil. Let them see how we can come to an understanding. We can reach peace with them quickly in 10 days, if God guides them along the right path. In 10 days, everyone will get his rights, if there is a determination and a decision. We feel that they still do not have the party that can make the decision. Some parties fear that making a decision on a certain matter might make them lose in the power struggle going on there. At any rate, we advise them to make up their minds and make a decision on peace. Once they decide, we will be able to reach an understanding with them. Everything will be over in a few sessions. We do not have any ambitions on their territories whatsoever. The land border [al-hudud al-barriyah] between us and them is determined by many agreements. There should be no disagreement. It should be very easy. The principle of noninterference in internal affairs benefits them and us.

In the Geneva talks, the Iranian foreign minister jumps from one point to another. Comrade Tariq 'Aziz told him for instance: We must discuss the subject of the evacuees or refugees. Who says that we fear this subject? Let us discuss the matter immediately. Every Iraqi with you who holds the Iraqi citizenship and has your confidence is most welcome in Iraq. Moreover, every Iranian here with us that you want to pardon and who is willing to return to Iran should be welcomed by you, because this is your affair. Without the need to reach an agreement, we say now that every Iraqi in Iran—and they are hearing me now I am sure—who can prove his Iraqi citizenship can return to Iraq immediately. We will check his documents and see him. They thought we would be afraid of such a thing. Well, we are not. Nobody disowns his people, whether in Iran or outside Iran.

Sometimes they say that we should act according to the sequence of the paragraphs and sometimes they make hints at or issue statements on a package deal. But they say there should be a deal on every point. Why should not all the points be tackled as a package deal. Either all the points should be tackled as a package deal, or they shoud be discussed in sequence. The foreign minister also told their representatives in Geneva: If you want to go in sequence, well and good, and if you want a package, then let us combine all the points. That is the entire UN Security Council resolution and a decision can be reached and everyone would obtain his legitimate rights. Let us place our trust in God and reach peace. But if they pursue a state of no peace, no war they will suffer more. We want peace. [passage omitted]

RCC, Ba'th Party View Peace, Palestinian State

JN1611143488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

The meeting reviewed results of the latest round of Iraqi-Iranian talks held in Geneva under the auspices of the UN secretary general and his personal representative, Jan Eliasson.

The council and the command have affirmed Iraq's firm principled position in the achievement of a comprehensive and lasting peace, the rejection of any attempt to convert the ceasefire, which began on 20 August 1988, into a mere truce, or the treatment of some aspects of the conflict or some clauses in Resolution No 598 at the expense of the comprehensive outlook and the need to achieve a permanent and comprehensive peace.

The council and the command have asserted Iraq's absolute rejection of Iran's unjustified allegations on the freedom of navigation. They affirmed Iraq's absolute right to free navigation for its civilian and military ships in the international waters of the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz under the shadow of the ceasefire. They affirmed that any obstruction of or encroachment on this right will be considered a premeditated violation of the ceasefire and Iraq will deal with it on that basis.

On the Arab level, the council and the command have again welcomed the historic resolution adopted by the PNC on 15 November on the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state. The council and the command affirmed Iraq's full recognition of the fraternal Palestinian state in harmony with its firm policy to support the Palestinian Arab people in their just struggle to guarantee their legitimate right to establish their independent state on their soil. The command and the council asserted Iraq's readiness to support this historic step in the international forums.

The council and the command urged the nonaligned countries, the member states of the ICO, and other countries that supported the Palestinian people's just cause and recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people to fully recognize the independent Palestinian state. The council and the command also urged countries that have in the past taken hesitant stands toward the Palestinian cause to deal positively and seriously with the important resolutions adopted by the PNC.

Members of the Armed Forces General Command and a number of officials from the Ministry of Defense attended part of the meeting to discuss some aspects of the general demobilization plan for conscripts according to the political and military developments.

The meeting approved the recommendations of the Ministry of Defense to demobilize a number of reserve officers in consecutive groups. The first group will be demobilized on 1 December 1988.

'Aziz Message to Klibi on UN Participation

JN1611133088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Iraq has proposed the participation of the Arab foreign ministers in the current UN General Assembly session during PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's presence at the meetings of this session, to express Arab support for the Palestinian people's cause and their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO, and for the declaration of the independent Palestinian state. This came in a message from Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, aimed at confronting the Zionist refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's rights. Following is the text of the message:

His Excellency Chedli Klibi, esteemed secretary general of the Arab League, Tunis:

On the occasion of the historic PNC declaration of an independent Palestinian state on 15 November 1988, taking into consideration that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat plans to participate in the discussion of the Palestine question during the current session of the UN General Assembly scheduled for the end of this month, and in light of the fact that the PLO Executive Committee chairman's participation in this session has a special historic significance, and to voice Arab support for the cause of the Palestinian Arab people and their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO, and for the declaration of the independent Palestinian state, and with the objective of confronting the Zionist attempts to deny the Palestinian people's rights, I propose the participation of the Arab foreign ministers in the current UN General Assembly session during the participation of the PLO Executive Committee chairman in the session. I kindly request that this proposal be conveyed to all colleagues. Regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Iraq, Baghdad, 15 November 1988

Likud Offers Alignment Coalition Without Rotation

TA1511202888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir tonight told the Alignment negotiating team that he intends to form a 4-year government without rotation and without including the issue of an international conference in the government's guidelines. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr Shamir demanded that the Alignment negotiating team return to him within a brief period with answers to his proposals, so as to enable the speedy establishment of a government.

At the beginning of the meeting, which lasted 1 hour, Minister Weizman wanted to rise and terminate it at once after he heard the prime minister's terms, but was convinced to stay until the end.

Minister Ari'el Sharon told our correspondent that he still insists that the government should be formed without including Shim'on Peres.

The Alignment negotiating team is now deliberating on the prime minister's proposals.

Alignment Team 'Flatly' Rejects Shamir's Terms

TA1611054388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Alignment negotiating team headed by Shim'on Peres last night flatly rejected the conditions presented by the prime minister for its participation in a new government. Mr Shamir insists on a 4-year government term without rotation and without any reference in the government guidelines to an international conference and on setting up mechanisms to foil an international conference.

Our correspondent reports that following a short consultation by the Alignment negotiating team after the meeting, it appears that there is a growing inclination toward going into the opposition. All the Alignment ministers will meet this morning to form a joint stand in view of the positions presented by the prime minister last night.

On Friday, Alignment ministers will meet with National Religious Party [NRP] representatives at the NRP's initiative.

Minister Ari'el Sharon met late last night with the prime minister and reiterated his demand for the defense portfolio. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that if he does not get defense, Minister Sharon would be prepared to accept the foreign or finance portfolios. The prime minister also met last night with Minister David Levi.

Alignment Stops Coalition Talks for 'Time Being'

TA1611121688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Alignment ministers have decided to stop the official contacts bn the establishment of a unity government for the time being, but they did not completely shut the door. They are asking for several clarifications from Yitzhaq Shamir: first, on the issue of equal division of portfolios, which the Alignment is demanding; second, on the establishment of the Inner Cabinet the Alignment is calling for. Two other issues are Shamir's opposition to an international conference and a rotation agreement on the premiership. Only after the prime minister responds to these questions will there be an additional discussion by the Alignment ministers' forum on setting up a unity government with the Likud.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 16 November adds: "The Alignment is proposing to the Likud to set up a small team made up of either ministers or their aides to define the points of difference. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that in a meeting in Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' office in Jerusalem, it was made clear that the Likud positions so far are unacceptable to the Alignment. The issues that have to be worked out are: foreign policy guidelines; the continued existence of an Inner Cabinet with equal representation for both parties; and the assigning of portfolios. The Alignment is demanding two of the three senior portfolios—Treasury, Defense, and Foreign Affairs."]

Greece To Recognize Israel, Palestinian State

TA1611133088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] According to sources in the Greek Foreign Ministry, the Greek Government is about to bestow full recognition on Israel. Until now, Greece abstained from making this move. According to these sources, Greece will recognize the Palestinian state at the same time. The source added that the act of recognition will take place on Monday, during a meeting of EEC foreign ministers.

Shamir: PNC Declaration Step in 'Terrorist' War

TA1511120988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Interview With Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Elihu Ben-On at Sede Boqer memorial for David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister; on 15 November—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] Well, first of all, the Palestinian declaration is not something new and does not surprise us. It is another step in the Arab terrorist organizations' war against Israel's very existence and independence. We will react accordingly.

[Ben-On] What would it mean politically were all the countries of the world to accept these declarations?

[Shamir] It is clear that we must be prepared for such a possibility. It would be Israel's political war, and if the need arises we will continue to convince all the nations of the world that granting recognition to such a creature means lending a hand to the destruction of Israel.

[Ben-On] Mr Shamir, what is the message you want to transmit to the residents of the territories, who might want to celebrate today?

[Shamir] To the residents of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip I would say: This is not the way to live in peace and security and coexistence with the Jewish people in Eretz Yisra'el. The path of violence and the attempts to undermine Israel's existence are leading—and will continue to lead—only to unnecessary suffering and will bring disaster to the inhabitants of these territories. The only way to achieve coexistence and normal life is through negotiations with Israel.

[Ben-On] Mr Shamir, do you think we might even see fireworks in various parts of Eretz Yisra'el?

[Shamir] I do not want to guess, but fireworks have absolutely no significance.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 15 November adds: "The Prime Minister's Office said the declaration on Palestinian independence is a unilateral move which will not contribute to advancing the peace process. The PLO makes its recognition of Security Council Resolution No 242 conditional on acceptance of the principle of self-determination, among other things, which makes reference to the UN resolution totally meaningless. The meaning of self-determination is the destruction of Israel, the announcement said. It reiterates that the best way to advance the political process is direct negotiations between the parties, with the participation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The bottom line is that official Jerusalem flatly rejects the PNC resolutions."]

Shomron: Territories 'Will Pay' for Resolution

TA1511142888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said the PLO's declaration of independence does not contain anything new. It does not recognize Israel directly, and it does not contain a decision to stop terrorism. The chief of staff stressed that all the PLO factions made statements against Israel at the PNC session.

He said the inhabitants of the territories will learn that after they get over their natural desire to celebrate, it will be they who will pay the full price. He also said the IDF will use all its force to prevent violent unrest in the territories. He pointed out that quiet was maintained in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today.

'Dozens' Sign Copy of Proclamation E. Jerusalem

TA1511182788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] In East Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Square today, dozens of representatives of institutions and organizations from the territories and East Jerusalem signed a copy of the independence proclamation announced by Yasir 'Arafat. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that before the signing ceremony, the proclamation was read aloud. It was then signed by representatives of labor and charity organizations, women's organizations, and trade unions. Representatives of the Shabiba and Zofim [Israeli left-wing affiliated youth movement of the Boy Scouts] were also among the signatories.

'Arafat 'Prepared To Clarify' Territorial Demands

TA1611062888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Walter Ruby]

[Excerpt] Algiers—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday that he is prepared to clarify whether he would be willing to limit his territorial demands to the West Bank and Gaza Strip once an international Middle East peace conference has convened.

Asked by this reporter during a press conference whether he would state explicitly his willingness to accept less territory, and replace the emblem of the PNC—which includes a map of all Mandatory Palestine—with an emblem showing a smaller Palestine state alongside Israel, 'Arafat replied; "In 1974 the PNC appoved the establishment of a Palestinian state on any part of Palestine territory that is liberated or where the Israelis are pushed back, and its capital should be Holy Jerusalem... However, I may be ready to give even more explanations and greater clarity once I am in an international conference for peace. Let's go to an international conference together, without any prior rules, and come to an agreement that will spell peace for all of our peoples, for everybody." [passage omitted]

'Senior' Source: U.S. May Tighten Ties With PLO

TA1511164088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Excerpt] The PNC proclamation will be the new U.S. Administration's first test in the Middle East. A senior political source in Jerusalem told us today that he fears that certain elements in the administration are liable to

take advantage of the PNC resolution to tighten the clandestine dialogue, which has been going on for a long time, between the administration and the PLO. The issue at stake is not a recognition of the PLO, but the expansion of ties. It is true that George Bush has not settled down in the White House yet, but his opinion is certain to be requested in the formulation of the administration's stand.

During the past month, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has been conducting a political campaign in world capitals aimed at preventing international recognition of the PNC declaration and of the Palestinian state, the latter being so far only a clause of the resolution.

A unique problem is expected in Europe, particularly in Italy and Greece. The reaction of the Soviet Union, which had objected to the independence declaration, is also uncertain at this stage. [passage omitted]

Inner Cabinet Briefed on PNC Resolutions
TA1611113888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] This morning the Inner Cabinet was given a detailed report on the PNC's resolutions in Algeria and the text of its declarations. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that after the briefing, there was a discussion on the influence of the PNC session in Algeria on the diplomatic process. Some of the Alignment ministers regard the Algiers resolutions as a new departure and believe there is a possibility that a diplomatic process might begin, but Likud ministers believe that the Algiers resolutions leave no room for any diplomatic consideration.

HADASH, Tehiya Member React to PNC Resolutions
TA1511063788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The executive of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] welcomed the Algiers decisions and says that there is no reason now for the Israeli Government to refuse to convene an international conference with PLO participation.

Tehiya member Elyaqim Ha'etzni of Qiryat Arba' said that the Algiers resolutions did not surprise the settlers due to the vacuum created when Husayn dissociated himself from the territories and by Israel's lack of action in this regard.

Jerusalem Arabic Reacts to PNC Proclamation
JN1511154488 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 15 Nov 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: On 1 October 1948, the first PNC session held in Gaza declared the complete independence of all Palestine and the establishment of a free, democratic, sovereign state bordered on the north by Syria and Lebanon, on the east by Syria and Transjordan, and on the west by the Mediterranean. This took place in 1948 in the days of Haj Amin al-Husayni.

Forty years and six weeks later, in the days of Yasir 'Arafat, the PNC declared in Algiers today an independent Palestinian state, but without demarcating its borders. The question is the following: Can the declaration of such a state really be considered a real achievement, one of the achievements, or the most important achievement attained by the uprising, as the 'Arafatist circles show it?

Certainly, the declaration of this state did not need the uprising or 11 months of uprising in the first place. This declaration, however, does not justify at all the high price paid so far by the Palestinians of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza in terms of souls or physical and personal damage. We can say that 'Arafat and his aides could have declared their independent state before the beginning of the uprising, and even without the uprising. We also can say that they could have declared their independent empire from the ocean to the Gulf.

Anyway, the proclamation of the independent 'Arafatist state in Algiers—like the proclamation 40 years ago of the independent state of Haj Amin al-Husayni in Gaza—can never resolve the Palestine question. This proclamation can also never serve the issue of sought peace. Even if this 'Arafatist state enjoys the recognition of the majority of the world's countries, it will be nothing more than a state on paper and its palaces will be established in outer space. 'Arafat himself admitted this fact when he said this morning after declaring his independent state: We waited for this moment for more than 40 years. However, many struggles are still ahead to achieve the resolution—that is, the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state.

One can ask here: Will the Palestinians wait another 40 years of tribulation for another leader to announce in one of the Arab capitals an independent Palestinian state as Yasir 'Arafat did today and as Haj Amin al-Husayni did 40 years ago?

Turkish Envoy 'Defends' Position on 'Palestine'
TA1611103188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Turkish charge d'affaires in Jerusalem defends and justifies his government's decision to recognize the state of Palestine, whose establishment was announced in Algeria.

The charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem this morning and heard from Acting Director General Yesha'yahu 'Anug that Israel regrets the Turkish decision. On leaving the meeting, the Turkish diplomat told our correspondent Razi Barqay that Turkey's policy has always been to recognize the

partition principle. He said that there is room for two countries—one Jewish and one Palestinian—in Eretz Yisra'el. He added that Ankara also recognizes the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and that Turkey believes that the Algiers announcement is an encouraging move.

Restrictions 'Sealing Off' West Bank Lifted

TA1611055088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Army has lifted the restrictions sealing off Judaea and Samaria, but many places remain under curfew and others are closed military areas. The Gaza Strip is under curfew for the 5th straight day. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 16 November adds that the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, has said that the curfew on Gaza will continue "as long as necessary."]

Last night security forces continued activities aimed at preventing disturbances. In several places residents tried to organize marches to celebrate the Palestinian declaration of independence, but they were dispersed by soldiers. One person was reported wounded in the village of Dayr al-Ghusun near Tulkarm.

E. Jerusalem Papers Delayed; Update on W. Bank

TA1611083788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria held up the distribution of East Jerusalem Arab newspapers this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus was told that the move was taken to make sure they do not contain inflammatory material.

Our correspondent reports that the curfew on the large towns in Judaea and Samaria, including Nabulus and Tulkarm, continues. There is a blockade on other towns. The IDF entered many Judaea and Samaria villages to remove flags and erase slogans. Some of the Judaea and Samaria telephone lines that were cut to foil preparations for disturbances will be restored. Electricity to several towns was cut off last night, but restored several hours later.

'Quiet' in West Bank; Casualties in Gaza Strip

TA1511175688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The IDF has cut off electricity to the Hebron area. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that electricity was not cut off in Qiryat Arba'. The commander of the Central Command believes that quiet will continue tonight in Judaea and Samaria. He said the state of alert and the soldiers' motivation are the reason for the quiet. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 on 15 November adds: "The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria this evening extended the closure of schools in the territories until the end of the month. The previous order was to have expired tonight. The decision was taken because the renewal of studies could have led to further unrest."]

Two inhabitants of the Gaza Strip were wounded today in clashes with soldiers. Arab sources told our correspondent Arye Gus there were more casualties, but that some did not reach hospitals and were treated privately. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1930 GMT on 15 November reports: "In the territories tonight, a resident of Dayr 'Usan village in Ramallah District sustained a leg injury from a plastic bullet. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat reports that the man was wounded when the Army was dispersing a disturbance in the village."]

Prime Minister Welcomes Palestinian Decision

JN1511183688 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] In its session this evening chaired by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, the Council of Ministers discussed the political statement and the Palestinian document of independence issued by the PNC. After the session, the prime minister stated to PETRA that Jordan had, from the start, recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the PNC as the representative of the Palestinian people's will. From this premise, Jordan declares support for the PNC resolutions and recognizes the independent Palestinian state.

The prime minister added that the Jordanian Government, under directions from King Husayn, will continue to exert all the efforts it can to support the PLO in its efforts to secure the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil. The prime minister concluded by saying: We wish the PLO all progress and success.

Al-Khasawinah Endorses PNC

JN1511125588 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has welcomed the Palestinian independence document—endorsed by the PNC last night. Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah said that Jordan had announced that it would welcome any resolution to be taken by the Palestinian brothers regarding the Palestine question. In a statement to AFP carried today, he said that Jordan received with satisfaction the PNC decision to declare an independent Palestinian state and that he beseeches God to enable the Palestinian brothers to achieve their national goals and establish their independent Palestinian state.

Dr al-Khasawinah also said that Jordan believes the PNC's acceptance of Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 constitutes an important and great development. He added that this development and the new position should be studied with the Palestinian brothers and the Arabs. He also said that Jordan welcomes the PNC's call for convening an international peace conference on the Midddle East. He added that Jordan, and particularly His Majesty the late King 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, always advised acceptance of the UN's Partition Resolution No 181, which stipulates the partitioning of Palestine into two states, an Arab state and a Jewish state. We believe that this resolution is still legitimate as it formed a legal and international basis for the establishment of Israel.

Al-Khasawinah also said: We appreciate the contents of the statement, expecially the positive and brotherly spirit toward Jordan, and we are eager to continue this brotherly atmosphere with our Palestinian brothers.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Reiterates Support

JN1611110088 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Nov 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Full Supoport for the Palestinian Brothers"]

[Text] The declaration of the independent Palestinian state opens a new era for Palestinian action to secure the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. The political statement and the independence document, which the PNC issued at the end of its session in Algiers, constitute a new trend because they are founded on acceptance of UN resolutions, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for the convening of an international peace conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict.

Out of faith coupled with action, Jordan has helped crystallize the political atmosphere to declare the Palestinian state by responding to the Arab and Palestinian desire during the Algiers summit for ending the legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. This enables the PLO to assume full responsibility toward Palestinian affairs and affirm the Palestinian national identity in the face of the Israeli occupation, which is trying to obliterate and deny this identity.

Jordan's response to the desire for disengaging the ties was a necessary and important prelude to enable the Palestinians to declare the state as a result of a large-scale Arab and international support. Hence, Jordan, which always stresses its positions in serving the Palestine question, admitted from the beginning that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that the PNC represents the will of the Palestinian people. As a result, Jordan announced support for the PNC resolutions and declared its recognition of the independent Palestinian state.

This position, which stems from Jordan's belief in its pan-Arab role and its inherited message, is part of its efforts throughout the phases of the Palestine question to enable this question to remain alive and gain international support.

As the PNC declares the Palestinian state as an expression of the Palestinian people's struggle and their desire for national independence and as the declaration of the state constitutes a new era for the Palestinian people's struggle under their legitimate representative, we wish the PLO every progress and success in its national and pan-Arab mission to achieve the Palestinian people's national goals, in which Jordan has always believed and for which its adopts its national and pan-Arab position.

King Husayn Receives Phone Call From Al-Asad

JN1411212888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening received a phone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who congratulated his majesty on his birthday and wished him every success in leading the Jordanian people toward more progress and prosperity. The two leaders exchanged views on a number of developments in the Arab arena as well as bilateral relations.

'Number of Drug Smuggling Operations' Foiled

JN1011145088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Nov pp 15, 20

[By Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[Excerpt] Antinarcotics and antiforgery men have recently foiled a number of drug smuggling operations and seized a quantity of narcotics estimated at approximately 200,000 Jordanian dinars. A number of persons who forged medical prescriptions and tried to sell them through illegitimate means were also apprehended.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Colonel Ghalib al-Zu'bi, director of the Department Combating Narcotics and Forgery, said that the quantity of drugs seized is estimated at 267 kg of hashish, 1 kg of heroin, 200 grams of cocaine, and 500 intoxicating pills.

He added that 35 persons of various nationalities, most of them non-Jordanians, were apprehended in these operations. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR Views Prospects Under Bush

JN1011132088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Nov 88 p 18

[News analysis by the political editor: "Bush and Israeli Intransigence"]

[Text] What concerns us more than any other topic on the election of the new president of the United States is the new president's influence on the situation in the Middle East, especially regarding efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region, in view of the role played by the United States as a superpower having special ties with Israel.

With George Bush's victory and election as president of the United States, many things can be expected in light of the fact that Bush is a leading member of the present Reagan administration and is well acquainted with the facts of the conflict and the positions of the various sides in the region. So he does not need much time to study the Middle East file. Therefore, the initiative of President Reagan on the Middle East can serve as a basis for any action by Bush to renew peace efforts in the Middle East.

Moreover, the new U.S. president knows full well that Israel, the United States' friend in the Middle East, was behind the frustration, in fact the failure, of the efforts of Secretary of State George Shultz a few months before the end of President Reagan's administration to achieve peace in the Middle East.

It seems that what had happened to Shultz' efforts would be repeated by the Israeli side if the new U.S. Administration tries to embark on a new effort in the Middle East. For what dominates Israel presently is a state of outbidding and bargains between radicals who reject the bases for achieving peace and peace itself. Therefore, Bush will face even more intransigent positions in Israel against the peace efforts.

In such a situation, Israel would become the main, and perhaps the only, obstacle to any role by the United States, as a superpower, to achieve peace in the region. Therefore, it behooves Bush to confront the Israeli challenge first, before hoping to achieve any progress toward a solution acceptable to all parties in the dispute.

Everything indicates that the new U.S. president will be in a better position to shorten the time and distance toward a just settlement in the region, if he shows a determination to tackle the Israeli obstacle. Otherwise, any U.S. effort will be useless in this explosive part of the world which aspires for a comprehensive just peace in the interests of stability, security, and peace for its peoples.

'Awn, Council Seek Unified Stance on Palestine
NC1511154488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpt] After a series of meetings from 0900 to 1500 today, the Council of Ministers under General Michel 'Awn has decided to begin contacts and consultations with Arab countries with regard to the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state. The contacts are designed to adopt a unified Arab stance on the Palestinian step. [passage omitted]

Army Officers in South To Follow 'Awn Orders
NC1511191188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Lebanese Army officers in the south have asserted that they will execute the orders issued by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and by the Military Council. A statement by the Army officers in the south, distributed in Sidon this evening, reads: We tell some officers who benefit from the divisions within the military establishment that the carrot and stick method which is being used against us will not make us accept a new fact which we hate to recognize.

The officers of the south warned the said officers of stern punishment, stressing that they are committing an error against the homeland that is more serious than treason.

Leaflets were distributed in the old city of Sidon last night urging the Army not to be divided and affirming that the Lebanese Army is the only national institution which unifies and does not divide.

AL-SHIRA' Interviews Army Commander Al-Khatib
NC1511162888 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 14 Nov 88 pp 16-20

[Interview with Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib, acting Army commander, by correspondents Hasan Sabra and Majidah Sabra, not identified individually, in Beirut on 9 November]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Your appointment as acting Army commander means that there are now two armies in Lebanon. This assessment is made on the basis of the existence of two commands and not merely because of a procedural measure that was implemented because the defense minister had decided that the commander's post was vacant. Politically speaking, are there two armies in Lebanon?

[Al-Khatib] This issue has not become an actual fact because ties still exist. My ties with all the brigades still exist; I have not severed them. In the current situation, there is a vacuum in Al-Yarzi, which is the Army Command Headquarters. The post has become vacant because of the activities of its occupant, who has involved himself in actions that have nothing to do with the Army or with the officers, including his claim to the post of prime minister. That is his business. The legitimate government (Dr Salim al-Huss' government) does not recognize this situation. It does not recognize the exercise by a prime minister over there of his role in Al-Yarzi. That is why I was entrusted with the task of acting Army commander; and this task will cease when this situation returns to normal.

[Correspondent] Do you consider this an abnormal situation, as you expressed in your statement today?

[Al-Khatib] Yes, this is what I consider to be an abnormal situation. It must be rectified.

[Correspondent] Would this abnormal situation end if Gen Michel 'Awn were to resign from the Army Command?

[Al-Khatib] If Michel 'Awn were to resign, then it would up to the government. If the government tells me that the matter is over and the situation has returned to normal, then I, as a military officer, will salute the cabinet and resume playing golf.

[Correspondent] There are those who believe that a number of armies exist in Lebanon. What should the first step be to unify the Army brigades?

[Al-Khatib] The bare facts regarding the Lebanese Army is that there is only one army (a Lebanese Army) which is divided into brigades in all Lebanese areas. Some brigades are enjoying the direct care and attention of the command, have the equipment they need, are very well armed and well organized, and are up to full strength. However, there are other brigades in other areas which are deprived of armaments and equipment and which do not enjoy the direct care and attention of the command. This disorganized situation, and I almost say that it is an intentional one, has opened the way for these brigades to become farms or military "kolkhozes." Every brigade commander has been forced, by his position, to be self-independent to some degree and to ensure his coexistence with the political environment prevailing in his region. My role now is to bring about the unity of all these brigades from Tripoli, to Juba Jubayl, Al-Yarzi, the (southern) suburb, to Henri Shihab, B'aqlin, Hammana, Sidon, Tyre, Arzun, Marj 'Uyun, and Rasha ya. My role is to unite these brigades, reorganize them, and explain the national issues to them within an integrated and major national program that will prepare them, united and integrated, to play the role of salvation at the level of the homeland.

[Correspondent] Would there have been a justification for your appointment had the vacant Army command authorized these brigades to carry out their roles and equipped them?

[Al-Khatib] There certainly would have been no reason for my appointment or for filling other posts had these brigades been authorized to carry out their national role within the framework of an integrated national program. But the Army Command is, regrettably, trifling with ministerial positions and claiming to practice them. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Let us return to the issue of your appointment. Influential Islamic leaders have opposed your appointment from the beginning. How will you approach these figures and explain to them that your appointment is not an act of partitioning the Army followed by a partitioning of the homeland?

[Al-Khatib] Does it harm those leaders if we organize the Army brigades? Is the organization, rehabilitation, and equipment of these brigades, and their preparation for a major national role and a still more major pan-Arab role not reassuring? Is preparing the Army for the national role that awaits it inside Lebanon and on the borders not reassuring to those leaders? I held several discussions with our brothers in Damascus before the question of my appointment as Army commander came up. The Syrian leaders constantly expressed the view that they hoped there would be a patriotic Lebanese army with a clear national and pan-Arab cause to which they would turn over the tasks inside Lebanon and with which they would stand in one trench opposite the Zionist enemy. This is a hope which the Syrians have expressed and about which I have known for some time. Is this not reassuring? If the whole army in all the Lebanese areas assumes its true role and prevents the milita groups from taking over those tasks pertaining to the citizens' affairs, will this not be reassuring to those leaders? The militia groups have a role which we do not deny, and they are in the same trench when it comes to the national and pan-Arab role. However, the Army is the sole party which should be entrusted with maintaining internal security and dealing with the affairs of the citizens on the orders of its command. It also is the party which specifies the roles of others.

[Correspondent] If it is said that Gen 'Awn rules the eastern area, will it be said, on the other hand, that the major general will rule West Beirut along with the presence of the militia groups? Will we have a refrain of the brigadier general and the general?

[Al-Khatib] With regard to the brigadier general, he has been charged with commanding the Army. He hopes that he will succeed for the sake of all Lebanon. As to who rules here and in all the areas, I consider that there is a legitimate government—the government of Dr al-Huss. Regarding Gen 'Awn's moves in Al-Yarzi, Al-Ashrafiyah, and Jadidat al-Matn, he claims that he is the head of a government. Our government does not recognize him. As for me, personally, because I believe in the legitimacy of the Lebanese Government, I do not recognize a prime minister called Michel 'Awn.

[Correspondent] In the eastern area, a coexistence has developed between the Army and the militia groups there despite the contradiction between the legitimacy of either party as far as they are concerned. Is it possible that there will be coexistence in the western area between the Army and the militia groups?

[Al-Khatib] The legitimacy or illegitimacy of the militia groups is not now under discussion. The militia groups all over Lebanon were spawned by the Lebanese war, now in its 14th year. A remedy for the militia groups and the situation they have created cannot come through the Army Command, but via the regime, and the government, and via political means. As for me in my capacity as Army commander, I will take into account any militia that has a proper national orientation and will utilize it in my war against the Zionist enemy. However, I will not recognize the role of the militia groups in matters of internal security, the citizens' security. This security is the province of the Internal Security Forces, supported by the Lebanese Army, when it becomes capable, and by the fraternal Syrian forces, which are present on Lebanese soil. When the Lebanese Army becomes capable and worthy, it will gradually assume these tasks, and will expand its role over all Lebanese territory, supported and assisted by the Syrian forces.

[Correspondent] Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran has said that the disbandment of the militia groups is under study. Minister Walid Junblatt has expressed his willingness to allow all the militia groups to join with the Army. Minister Birri had earlier announced their disbandment. Will you take these militia groups in as blocs, which will later become sectarian blocs within the Army?

[Al-Khatib] Fortunately, for the Army Command and for Lebanon, the political leaders who are in power now and who have the biggest militia groups in the country are the same leaders who support and advocate the assumption by the Lebanese Army of its full role in Lebanon. They also have promised the Army commander, whom they nominated and named, to turn over to him all the affairs of the militia groups.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that this was your condition for assuming the command of the Army?

[Al-Khatib] Yes. It was a principal condition because if they want to have a Lebanese Army with an honorable national and pan-Arab role and which is worthy of Lebanon and its history, then they must pledge this concession to me. Fortunately, they were up to the level of the hopes I had in them. I am grateful to them for this.

[Correspondent] Please explain this?

[Al-Khatib] I thank them for their support, their backing, and their promise to hand over all that is connected with the militia groups.

[Correspondent] The question raised by the citizenry is: Who will be in charge of my [security] in West Beirut and in the other areas?

[Al-Khatib] We will prepare the Army to take charge of the citizens' security in all Lebanese territories. We will support the Internal Security Forces. The fraternal Syrian forces on our territories will support us if we need their support. The militia groups will only play a role when there is general mobilization to fight the Zionist enemy. The militia groups will have no role with regard to internal security or the citizens' security outside the framework of a general mobilization.

[Correspondent] That means that the militia groups will continue to exist?

[Al-Khatib] I am not responsible for whether the militia groups remain or are dissolved. I am dealing with them on this basis. I do not accept their role in the sphere of internal security, but I do coordinate with them, control them, and direct them in the general mobilization against the Zionist enemy. That is the case if the militia groups continue to exist. However, if they are dissolved in accordance with a political decision, then I will deal with them on the basis that they are dissolved and that they have no role in the sphere of internal security or any other sphere.

[Correspondent] Should a conflict erupt between the existing militia groups and the Army, would the matter be decided in favor of the Army only as far as the issue of maintaining security is concerned?

[Al-Khatib] I will try not to let this happen because these militia groups are national forces, not agent or hostile ones. I will avoid any confrontation with them because they are my allies. How could I seek to collide with my ally?

[Correspondent] Walid Junblatt has said that he is willing to hand over all the militia groups to the Army. Are you willing to accept all these groups, or will you sift through them?

[Al-Khatib] I thank Junblatt for his confidence, but I will give priority now to the Army brigades and their reorganization. We will coordinate with these militia groups after the reorganization of the Army brigades has been completed to find a solution to this issue.

[Correspondent] The Army now needs armaments and equipment. From what source will you provide the funds for this?

[Al-Khatib] This is a difficult problem. I do not hide from you that this is my primary concern. Equipping armies supposedly concerns the state. However, because of the current position of the state, and also in view of the current position of the Central Bank, and the tragic financial situation in Lebanon, the issue requires other solutions which the government will undertake at the political level because armaments and equipment are not a military, but a political task.

[Correspondent] Can we assure the citizens that they will not encounter new duties, or taxes, or other financial burdens?

[Al-Khatib] As far as I am concerned, I will not ask the citizens to assume any new burdens. The citizens already have enough burdens.

[Correspondent] Will you be recalling all the officers who have stayed at home during the periods of partition through which the country has passed through?

[Al-Khatib] I will try to employ the largest possible number of officers. I will do this by giving them tasks that serve the Army reorganization and its unity in all areas and at all levels. I will spare no effort to assign every officer the role with which he can give his utmost. But, if some officers remain without a job, I will try to ensure that their skills are not left outside the framework of the Army establishment. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] About your appointment: Is it a war plan or a peace plan?

[Al-Khatib] In my opinion, a peace plan.

[Correspondent] If the other side rejects it—and it has—and if there are two armies and political conditions become ripe for a showdown, does this not mean war?

[Al-Khatib] We will not be dragged at all by such provocations and will not gamble with Lebanon's destiny for the sake of someone's whim.

[Correspondent] And if Samir Ja'ja' shells the western sector?

[Al-Khatib] We will deal with this matter when it happens.

[Correspondent] Do you intend to undertake an initiative toward the military command in the eastern area to unite the Army?

[Al-Khatib] I will never sever links with the Army brigades because I have friends and comrades in them. The brigade officers in Al-Ashrafiyah, Al-Yarzi, Kasrwan, and Jubayl have great capabilities. Some of these officers are highly efficient and loyal to Lebanon. We are proud of many of them and we will not sever links with them at all. Our problem only lies in the vacuum in Al-Yarzi.

[Correspondent] Does this mean you are now the commander of the Army of all Lebanon; in other words, the commander of the Lebanese Army?

[Al-Khatib] This was the logic behind the appointment.

[Correspondent] If you were to issue a military order to the Army brigades and some brigades did not obey it, what would be your response?

[Al-Khatib] I will appreciate the circumstances of these officers. I will not treat them as violators, mutineers, or insubordinates, because they will be under certain circumstances which I understand.

[Correspondent] If you send a military mission abroad, will you choose its members from the various Army brigades?

[Al-Khatib] We will do this, and I hope they will not disagree with me over this.

[Correspondent] Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib, do you really consider yourself the commander of the Lebanese Army?

[Al-Khatib] I consider myself the commander of the entire Lebanese Army. Several officers in the eastern area support me. I am realistic and know the limits of reality. I know that these officers and perhaps others will not be allowed by circumstances to implement all my orders. I excuse them.

[Correspondent] Do you envisage the possibility of a clash, for political reasons, among the Army brigades under your command in the near or distant future?

[Al-Khatib] This will mean that I have failed utterly.

[Correspondent] If Michel 'Awn issues a disciplinary measure against you as a brigadier general, thinking such a measure is within his jurisdiction, what will be your reaction?

[Al-Khatib] I will ignore the whole matter as if it did not happen.

[Correspondent] Will you adopt a tit for tat measure against him?

[Al-Khatib] I will not engage in vituperations.

[Correspondent] You are assigned tasks that cover all Lebanon. How will you deal with each area separately? Let us begin with the north. Some say former President Sulayman Franjiyah wanted the Army commander to be Christian. Others say he was totally against the idea of your appointment. Is this a sign of differences within the national ranks?

[Al-Khatib] I will deal with all areas on the basis of one national logic. I will respect anyone who agrees with this national logic. I will ignore anyone who counters me with a sectarian or religious logic, regardless of his position and capability.

[Correspondent] Do you intend to visit former President Franjiyah in the north?

[Al-Khatib] Naturally. Franjiyah is a great national and loyal leader. Whenever I go to the north, I visit Zgharta and exchange views with Franjiyah.

[Correspondent] There are two problems in the south: first, Israeli occupation and aggression; and second, internal conflicts between Palestinian factions on the one hand and Amal and other parties on the other. How will you deal with this situation?

[Al-Khatib] The south, sir, is entirely a Lebanese responsibility. All of us as Lebanese are responsible for the South. I will deal with the south as a resistance issue. All of us must become resistance fighters for the sake of the south.

If we succeed in establishing a resistance army and a resistance people, we will thus make a great stride toward liberating the South and proving our national and pan-Arab identity.

[Correspondent] And Resolution 425?

[Al-Khatib] I support Resolution 425. The principal focus of our effort is to prepare our Army to carry out its basic tasks in the south.

[Correspondent] What about the constant clashes between the Palestinian organizations and the Amal Movement?

[Al-Khatib] The Palestinian issue is a complicated one with major political aspects. I hope that the government and the regime will help to find these solutions. The Army Command will not be far removed from the decision which the government will make in this regard.

[Correspondent] How will you deal with the 'Awn-Ja'ja' alliance?

[Al-Khatib] East Beirut is just like West Beirut. I will not differentiate between the two sectors of Beirut. The 'Awn-Ja'ja' alliance is still outside the framework of the comprehensive national solution. Hence, I will deal with it only on this basis.

[Correspondent] You have made a proposal to the militia groups in West Beirut within a particular political context. Because you are the Army of all of Lebanon, will you be proposing a way for the Lebanese Forces to deal with the Army?

[Al-Khatib] The problem of the militia groups in East Beirut is two-sided. Its first problem is connected with the people and the citizens. It is exercising authority in the full sense of the word. It is imposing kickbacks,

levying taxes, and performing the role of internal security. Hence, it is usurping my position, which is unacceptable. The second problem is that of belonging, that is the national and pan-Arab problem. There also is the relationship with the Israeli enemy, an issue which also must be decided before we propose solutions.

[Correspondent] There is a problem with regard to the security in the southern suburb. This is not limited to a single local militia. There is the Hizballah militia, to which the question of the hostages has been linked and which is regionally and internationally outside the local context.

[Al-Khatib] The hostage problem is a major part of the complexities in the U.S.-Iranian relationship. I do not think it is wise to involve the Army Command in this issue.

[Correspondent] I believe that you had a number of discussions with Ministers Birri and Junblatt and other parties not in the government but responsible for militia groups. Has there been contact with officials from Hizballah or from Islamic militia groups?

[Al-Khatib] This has not taken place. But it is in my program to hold such a contact to acquaint myself with their views and opinions about the Army's role and about social and political security in general.

[Correspondent] There is talk about an assembly of the Syrian forces and their equipment. Will you replace the Syrian Arab forces in Beirut to maintain security?

[Al-Khatib] The Syrian leadership has told me more than once that it does not desire to keep its forces at the roadblocks, as they are now. The leadership prefers to have its forces assembled at a number of positions from where they can support the national Lebanese forces that are charged with maintaining security. This, in its view, is more effective for both sides. Naturally, we cannot assume this role except gradually and according to the upgrading of our units and of our ability to undertake this task. We will, naturally, require the Syrian Arab forces' support in our tasks until the Army can perform all of its duties alone. At such a time we and the Syrian Army will be in the same trench confronting the Israeli enemy.

[Correspondent] Whoever reads this will say that it is the program of a head of a government and not only an army commander?

(The brigadier general laughs and does not answer.)

Israeli Flights Reported Over Beirut, Mountain

NC1511150788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1503 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli combat aircraft broke the sound barrier while flying over Beirut and the mountain this afternoon.

Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC1511195788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over Sidon and the camps using flares this evening.

Planes Draw Antiaircraft Fire

NC1611113588 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Zionist warplanes flew over Beirut at 1010 today, breaking the sound barrier. Zionist aircraft have been flying over Sidon and the camps east of the city at low altitude since 1000 and are drawing antiaircraft fire. Meanwhile, hostile gunboats were sighted off the southern coast this morning.

Israeli Aircraft Break Sound Barrier Over Beirut

NC1611082488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over the capital at 1012 today during reconnaissance flights.

Israeli Naval Activities Off Southern Coast

NC1611081788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli occupation forces and agent Lahd's militiamen have intensified their security measures and imposed a vigorous order restricting movements in the border strip villages. Furthermore, the Israeli forces have closed down all outlets leading to the border strip.

Meanwhile, enemy warships have been sighted conducting unusual naval activities off the southern coast.

Ministers, Al-Fahum on Palestinian Resolution

JN1511182288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] SANA said that the Syrian Council of Ministers held its weekly session today, during which a review of the political situation was made and the Council of Ministers listened to a report submitted by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on all the political developments in the Arab and international arenas. [passage omitted]

A reliable Syrian source has affirmed to me that Syria has always supported the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. This source recalled the repeated Syrian positions which have always been supportive of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, particularly their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state. The source added that Syria's position on this issue has been expressed in the Arab summit resolutions.

On the other hand, PNSF Chairman Khalid al-Fahum described the proclamation of the establishment of the independent state as a positive step. However, he criticized the recognition of Resolution 242, saying that this is a relinquishment of the national and inalienable rights.

The official spokesman for the Fatah Provisional Command has stated that the resolutions which were passed are very grave and conspiratorial resolutions and are a real disaster to the Palestinian people, and that they endanger the unity of the people in the occupied territories. He added that these resolutions do not bind the Palestinians, and called for holding a Palestinian popular conference that will produce a new command. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' on Lebanese Crisis, Bush's Election

JN1411151388 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 13 Nov 88 pp 1, 20

[By As'ad al-Samman]

[Text] Damascus—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has announced that the main purpose of his recent tour of some Arab states was to deliver messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to the leaders of these states.

He revealed to AL-SIYASAH that the messages dealt with the Arab situation and the new Lebanese developments. He said: During this tour, I felt there was an Arab concern for what is taking place in Lebanon and a desire to maintain its unity and Arabism and bring about national reconciliation among all the Lebanese. He added that President al-Asad has positively assessed his tour.

Asked about the proposed Arab summit, he said that there is an Arab tendency to hold a meeting on the level of Arab foreign ministers to discuss what can be done to help Lebanon. Syria, he said, will participate in this meeting. Al-Shar' said that Klibi's tour of the Arab capitals helped explain the dimensions of the Lebanese crisis and the results of the trip were both positive and satisfactory because they reflected an Arab desire to support Lebanon and reject the partitionist Israeli approach in it.

Regarding the position on 'Awn's government, he said: This government has not met any of the conditions fixed by the Lebanese constitution or by norms, nor has it enjoyed the confidence of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. Moreover, former President Amin al-Jumayyil did not hold the required parliamentary consultations before the end of his tenure, and the Muslim members of the government, who constitute half of its members, refused to participate in it, and no decree was issued dissolving Al-Huss' government.

Asked about the Syrian-U.S. agreement and the progress of dialogue between the two sides, Faruq al-Shar' said: The U.S.-Syrian dialogue revolves around the overall regional issues, including the Lebanese crisis, and the U.S. Administration has reconsidered its position on the Lebanese question. During our dialogue with the Americans we sensed that they have become firmly convinced that the Lebanese crisis can only be solved on the basis of large-scale reforms in the Lebanese system, national reconciliation, election of a new Lebanese president, and guaranteeing equal rights and duties for all Lebanese through participation in power and cancellation of political sectarianism. There is a joint Syrian-U.S. visualization of the entire Lebanese crisis and not only the election of a new president. Al-Shar' added: We understood that the U.S. position will continue in Bush's era because Bush's administration is an extension of President Reagan's administration.

Reportage on Bulgarian Minister's Damascus Visit

Lukanov Arrives 10 Nov

JN1011101888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Comrade Andrey Lukanov, minister of foreign economic relations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, arrived in Damascus this morning at the head of an economic technical delegation on a formal visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus international airport by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs.

In a statement to SANA correspondent upon his arrival, Comrade Lukanov said he will hold talks with the Syrian officials on promoting and boosting cooperation between the two countries in the various fields in order to bring this cooperation up to the level of their political relations, the foundations of which were laid by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Todor Zhivkov.

Economic Ties Discussed

JN1011200088 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, 10 Nov (SANA)—The first expanded session between the Syrian Arab side headed by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the Bulgarian side under Andrey Lukanov, minister of foreign economic relations, was held here today.

During this session, the two sides exchanged views on various topics and technical and organizational issues pertaining to fields of cooperation in all economic and development sectors.

At the end of the session, it was agreed to set up six Syrian-Bulgarian joint subcommittees to study and discuss all projects listed in the agreements concluded between the two countries as well as all proposals for promoting the relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The subcommittees began their work immediately following the end of this session. These are the trade and financial affairs committee, the irrigation and agriculture committee, the gas and oil committee, the electricity and communications committee, the industry committee, and the coordination and formulation committee.

Received by Al-Zu'bi

JN1211114588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] In Damascus, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this morning received Comrade Andrey Lukanov, minister of foreign economic relations of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The talks dealt with relations of cooperation and ways of bolstering and promoting them in the mutual interests and to the joint benefit of both friendly peoples and countries.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN1211171488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] At 1300 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Andrey Lukanov, Bulgarian minister of foreign economic relations. Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, economy and foreign trade minister, and Bulgaria's ambassador in Damascus were present.

Lukanov conveyed greetings and a message from Bulgarian President Zhivkov. President al-Asad asked him to give his greetings to the Bulgarian president and friendly people. They talked about bilateral ties and stressed the need to broaden the scope of economic cooperation. Regional developments were also discussed.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN1211193088 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Andrey Lukanov, Bulgaria's minister of foreign economic relations, and his delegation left Damascus this evening, ending a several-day visit to Syria. On hand to see them off at Damascus International Airport were Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, the minister of economy and foreign trade, the state minister for planning, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Before his departure, Lukanov told SANA he was grateful for and impressed by the hospitality accorded him and his delegation during their stay in Syria. He noted the closeness of Bulgarian-Syrian ties in various spheres. His visit to Syria was a real success, and his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad was the highlight of his stay, added the Bulgarian minister. His talks with Syrian officials, Lukanov said, explored ways to broaden the horizons of the economic and trade cooperation between the friendly countries.

Meanwhile, minutes of the meetings and talks held between the Syrian and Bulgarian sides led by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, economy and foreign trade minister, and Comrade Lukanov were signed this afternoon. Present were Dr Sabah Baqjaji, state minister for planning; Engineer 'Abd al-Rahman al-Madani, irrigation minister; and Antoine Jubran, industry minister. The talks sought to broaden and deepen economic and trade cooperation between the friendly countries and to reach agreement on a number of development projects in agriculture, irrigation, industry, and other areas.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin End Operations on Salang Highway

BK1511134188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Nov 15 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrillas have ended a series of attacks on the Salang highway after proving that they could cut the key link between Kabul and the Soviet Union, a mujahidin spokesman said Tuesday [15 November].

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, field commander in Afghanistan for the Jamiat-e Eslami resistance faction, had withdrawn his forces from the Salang highway after successfully testing their effectiveness during a series of attacks since early November on convoys and outposts along the road, the spokesman said.

Western diplomats here said the Afghan Army had regained control of the 350-kilometre-long highway Saturday and added that civilian and military convoys were once again moving freely along the road. [passage omitted]

Mr. Mas'ud's forces, who are based in the Panjsher Valley north of Kabul, had kept the road under attack for most of last week, the diplomats said.

The Jamiat-e Eslami spokeman said Mr. Mas'ud's forces, believed to number several thousand guerrillas, had cut the highway and thwarted attempts by Soviet and Afghan troops to reopen it.

Diplomats here said that the road leading 150 kilometres east from Kabul to the key garrison town of Jalalabad was still cut by the rebels.

They added that the 90-kilometre stretch leading on from Jalalabad to Towr Kham on the border with Pakistan also remained blocked despite claims in the Afghan media that the Army had regained control of the road. [passage omitted]

They added that Kabul residents had found it difficult to buy bread following the cutting of the Salang highway which had disrupted supplies of wheat and flour to the capital from the north and the Soviet Union.

Reports from southern Qandahar said the mujahidin were fighting Soviet troops at several points along the 12-kilometre road leading from the city to its important airport, which has been turned into an armed camp.

Unconfirmed reports said a few Soviet troops had been seen in Qandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city.

Soviet troops had re-entered Helmand Province, west of Qandahar, early this month, the diplomats said, citing reports from residents.

Soviet Delegation Welcomed by Commerce Minister

LD1511102688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Nov 88

[text] A high-ranking RSFSR delegation led by Yuriy Sergeyevich Sukhin, minister of motor transport, arrived in Kabul today to participate in the 7th session of the primary commission of Afghan-Soviet transport affairs, which will be held within the framework of the permanent commission of economic cooperation between both countries.

At Kabul international Airport, the delegation was welcomed by Commerce Minister Muhammad Khan Jalalar and by leadership delegations of the ministries of transport, commerce, and construction affairs.

According to another report the high-ranking RSFSR delegation met this afternoon with the acting minister of transport and leader of the ministries of commerce, planning, and construction affairs. He talked to them on topics of transport and other subjects of mutual interest.

New Interior Minister Approved by House

LD1611111988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 15 BAKHTAR—The appointment of Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, as minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan was approved in a complete democratic atmosphere by the House of Representatives here today.

Dr Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan accompanied Watanjar during the vote of confidence to him by the said house.

Bangladesh

Palestinian State Accorded Recognition

BK1611043288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0420 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 16 (AFP)—Bangladesh has joined several other nations in recognising an independent Palestinian state declared by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat, state radio announced Wednesday.

The government and people of Bangladesh "wholeheartedly welcomed the declaration of an independent Palestinian state and recognised the new state," the radio quoted an official statement as saying.

Bangladesh, the world's third largest Moslem nation, had always vocally supported the just struggle of the Palestinian people for the right to have an independent homeland, the radio added.

Bangladesh was sure that as a result of Mr. 'Arafat's declaration, "the long-cherished hopes and aspirations of (the) Palestinian people will be realised and (the) dream of a permanent homeland with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital is achieved."

Major opposition political parties have also welcomed the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state and termed it a historic step.

Mr. 'Arafat announced the establishment of a Palestinian state with "Holy Jerusalem" as its capital during a session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, in Algiers on Tuesday.

The session also implicitly recognised Israel's right to exist.

Some one dozen countries have formally recognised the Palestinian state.

India

PRK's Hun Sen Arrives on 2-day Visit 16 Nov

BK1611065688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Kampuchean prime minister, Mr Hun Sen, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a 2-day visit. He was received by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao. During his official stay, he will have discussions with the prime minister and other Indian leaders on a nonaligned initiative to resolve the Kampuchean problem. Mr Hun Sen will also apprise the Indian leaders of the progress made at Paris talks on the issue. He will call on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, later today.

Met by Rao at Airport

BK1611063888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0616 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 16 (AFP)—Cambodian Premier Hun Sen arrived here Wednesday on a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on efforts to settle the Cambodian conflict, officials said.

External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was at the airport to welcome Mr. Hun Sen, who arrived here from a visit to Moscow. He is to return home via Calcutta Thursday, an Indian Government spokesman said.

Mr. Hun Sen's visit comes two days ahead of the start of a three-day official visit by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Indian officials said the visit by the prime minister of the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government was part of efforts by the Non-Aligned Movement to settle the nearly 10-year-old Cambodian conflict.

Mr. Hun Sen is to hold talks with Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Narasimha Rao and his Deputy Kanwar Natwar Singh.

Indian officials said he would brief Mr. Gandhi on current efforts to reach a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian conflict. Mr. Gandhi was to host a luncheon for Mr. Hun Sen later Wednesday.

Mr. Hun Sen met Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk in France November 7-9 for a third round of talks centering on a proposed transitional coalition government in Phnom Penh.

India, which recognises the Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh government, has been playing a quiet intermediary role in the peace efforts.

Earlier this month Mr. Natwar Singh met Prince Sihanouk in Paris and discussed the formation of a proposed four-party coalition government.

A U.N.-recognised Cambodian resistance coalition made up of followers of Prince Sihanouk, former Prime Minister Son Sann and the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge is battling the Phnom Penh government.

The resistance coalition fields a total of some 50,000 guerrillas against an estimated 90-100,000 Vietnamese troops in Cambodia since Hanoi moved in in late 1978 to topple a Khmer Rouge government.

No Visas for Afghans Before Gorbachev Visit

BK1411151088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1454 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov 14 (AFP)—India has suspended issuing visas to Afghan nationals in Kabul as a part of elaborate security measures for the visit of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to New Delhi this week, officials said.

The Indian Embassy last Monday halted consular activities and suspended issuing visas but did not give reasons.

Indian diplomats refused to comment on the suspension, but officials at the mission said the embassy would not resume issuing visas until November 25.

The decision has sparked confusion here among hundreds of applicants including Indian passport holders as the mission was earlier issuing more than 250 visas a day to people anxious to leave rocket-hit Kabul.

The officials said New Delhi did not want Afghan nationals to reach India during Mr Gorbachev's official three-day visit because of a general anti-Soviet attitude among Afghans.

More than one million people have died in the war since 1979 when Moscow moved in troops to support a communist government in Kabul. Another five million have fled the country.

(In India, where some 6,000 Afghan refugees live in New Delhi alone, press reports have said that a "close watch" is being kept on all Afghans in the capital prior to the visit.)

2 Pakistan-Trained Saboteurs Arrested in Kashmir
BK1611032288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, police have arrested two Pakistan-trained saboteurs along with arms and ammunition from Anantnag District. Some explosive materials were also recovered following the arrest. In another raid at Hyderpura near Srinagar police seized 20 bags of explosive materials from a house.

According to a spokesman of the state government, 31 Pakistan trained youths have so far been arrested on charges of subversion in the state.

Lok Dal Party Splits; Bahuguna Removed
BK1511133488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The Lok Dal has formally split. A group led by Mr Devi Lal removed Mr H.N. Bahuguna from the presidentship of the party today. He has also been expelled from the primary membership for antiparty activities. At a plenary session requisitioned by the group in New Delhi, Mr Devi Lal was elected the party chief. Mr Virendra Verma was elected as vice president. The plenary session revoked the order passed by Mr Bahuguna removing Mr Sharad Yadav from the post of general secretary and Mr J.P. Goyal from the post of legal adviser. It also appointed four more general secretaries.

The session endorsed the decision taken at Bangalore for unification of the Lok Dal and the Janata Party to form the Janata Dal. The Lok Dal National Executive constituted by Mr Bahuguna was declared dissolved. The declaration issued by him announcing that those who attend today's session would cease to be members of the party was also revoked.

Speaking to newsmen later, Mr Bahuguna maintained that today's plenary session was unconstitutional. Describing the group led by Mr Devi Lal as splitters, Mr Bahuguna said legally, they have no locus standi. He said that his party will find out the names of those who attended today's meeting and their fate will be decided on the 17th when the national executive meets.

Iran

Khomeyni Receives Yazd Friday Prayers Leader
LD1611003288 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Hojjat-ol Eslam Muhammad 'Ali Sadduqi, the imam's representative and the Friday Prayer leader of Yazd, yesterday was received by Imam Khomeyni and had talks with him.

RESALAT Emphasizes Need for Change
NC1511192588 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Part II of an editorial by the RESALAT political department: "Need for Change"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr President, esteemed representatives:

With our leadership's keen vision, the state panel for the discernment of the best interests of the country came into existence, and with this panel's prudent measures the policymaking council was set up and progressed. [passage omitted]

In the present circumstances, our economic malaise, however, cannot be terminated with a mere increase in income. This is because, on the one hand, we need long-term planning in a situation where our problems are of an immediate nature. If, on the other hand, we ponder over ways to further augment our income and we succeed in doing so, the possibility still exists that we may not have the ability to expend it correctly! [passage omitted]

The fact is, the government should—in its capacity as the apex of the pyramid of management—be able to create coordination among the "various sectors of society and the government" and in this it has been unsuccessful. When we cast a glance at the present disarray, we see that all the economic, political, and social problems are interwoven like the warp and woof of fabric. The world energy situation also affects our income, which in turn affects our economy. It also affects our health and consumer needs, education and manpower programs, family and social ties, and eventually, our culture. [passage omitted]

Mr President, ad hoc and haphazard decisionmaking and procrastination in implementation, tackling numerous unforeseeable social issues which did not previously exist, and the "feebleness of management" are all clear evidence of the lack of ability on the part of the present administrative machinery. At present the government needs "management" which can grasp the present situation before anything else, is geared to the needs of a country, and can make decisions to implement the leadership's objectives, as well as the goals of the special panel for discerning the best interests, and the supreme

reconstruction council. However, the present administration is intentionally or inadvertently afflicted by "a cliquish tendency" and it is for this reason that its former concepts of unity among all forces have gradually lost their meaning.

A government's "removal of its opponents" is the crystallization of those deep trends in economic and commercial monopolies, as well as a government's cultural links with various strata of society, such as we have witnessed. We are facing fresh and hazardous realities. Even if policymakers are strong, they are forced to work with unsuitable and atrophied organizations and will never be able to remove the problems facing society. It goes without saying that the heads of the three branches of government will be answerable to history, society, and to God Almighty. Respected officials, each one of you should feel a greater sense of responsibility than the other and act in a manner, not in accordance with your individual political acumen, but in a way that conforms with the interests of the nation and the Islamic system. Hence, it is necessary that you keep in mind the concept of "change," especially where it is to begin.

At present, the government's management cadre is displaying a kind of ambivalence in carrying vital decisions to their conclusion, and in view of the short time before the presidential elections—only 10 more months—it is postponing all changes in the administrative system until then. One may ask the Majlis, which, in this revolution of "fundamental change" came into being with the wishes and aspirations of the people, how long will management continue in this manner and still be able to preserve its centralized nature in this fresh chapter of the revolution's splendor?

Today, delay in decisionmaking will cause immense losses to the system. Today, each member of this nation demands an immediate answer. Almost a year is a long time to wait. Even a month's delay is a source of doubt. One can no longer tackle the numerous problems present with a few ordinances, the contents of which do not synchronize with the people's needs or situation.

The present executive management entered the arena and has resorted to pompous slogans as it could not keep in step with the swift pace of public needs. One may ask, what price must be paid to wait for more than a year and in the hope that the passage of time will solve everything?

One may well ask, how long will the opportunity last for "steps toward change?" Greetings.

Kenyan President Arrives on 3-Day State Visit

LD1411132988 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi arrived here at 15:30 hours local time (12:00 GMT) Monday for a three day state visit.

Preisdent Moi and his entourage were greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport by President 'Ali Khamene'i, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, Minister of Agriculture 'Isa Kalantari, Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi, high presidential adviser Mostafa Mir Salim, Deputy Premier for Political Affairs 'Alireza Mo'ayeri and a number of Majlis (parliament) deputies.

President arap Moi and President Khamene'i stood on the special platform at the airport and listened to the national anthems of the two countries and then inspected the honor guard.

The Kenyan president is leading a 65-man delegation including Foreign Minister Dr. R. Ouko and Energy Minister K.N.K. Biwott.

In a brief speech at the airport, President Moi, wishing for a lasting peace in the region, expressed hope that Tehran-Nairobi ties would further expand.

Moi was born in 1924 in Nairobi. He was elected as a member of parliament in 1955 and in 1961 he was appointed as a parliamentary representative to the Education Ministry. He served as vice-president between 1967-78.

In 1979, Moi succeeded Jomo Kenyatta as president of Kenya, and was re-elected for the second and third terms in 1983 and 1988.

President Moi is also the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and chairman of the ruling party, the Kenya African National Union (KANU).

Meanwhile, Iranian Ambassador to Nairobi Mohammad Sharif Mahdavi in an interview with the English daily "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" ' today announced that Kenya will upgrade its relations to the ambassadorial level.

The ambassador told the daily that the Kenyan Embassy will be inaugurated by President Moi or Foreign Minister R. Ouko who is part of the delegation, on Wednesday.

Talks With Khamene'i

LD1511140688 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran and visiting Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi sat for the first round of talks here today.

Also participating in the talks were Iran's Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi, Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari, Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, Majlis Deputy Do'ai, adviser to Iran's President Mir Salim, and from Kenya Foreign Minister Robert Ouko, Energy

Minister Nicholas Biwott, Technology Minister Sam Ongeri, Animal Husbandry Minister Maina Wanjigi, and Adviser to Kenyan President Hoseyn M. Mohammad.

Earlier on Tuesday the Kenyan president and his accompanying delegation visited the Behesht-e Zahra public cemetery south of Tehran and paid homage to marytrs of the Iraq-Iran war.

OAU Observer Status Suggested

LD1511141488 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's preparedness to become an observer member of the Organisation of the African Unity (OAU) which he described as a "useful and effective" body.

(Founded in 1963, the OAU aims at promoting unity and solidarity among African states).

The president's remarks came in the first round of talks with his Kenyan counterpart Daniel arap Moi who arrived here at the head of a high-powered political-economic delegation on a five day official visit. The first round of the talks started at the presidential bureau this morning, lasted for one hour.

The two sides agreed on formation of four different committees on oil, industry, agriculture, and politics and coordination headed by relevent ministers who will submit reports on the result of their work in the second round of the talks.

The Kenyan president thanked Khamene'i for the warm welcome accorded him and his delegation which included a number of ministers and invited his Iranian counterpart to visit Kenya.

President Moi also wished for further progress of the Islamic Republic and the achievement of an all-out peace with Iraq.

Pointing to political, economic and cultural ties between Iran and Kenya, he stressed on consolidation of these relations. He added that Third World countries should rely on their own resources in the coming years.

In response, President Khamene'i stated that Iran highly valued its ties with the Third World countries, including African states. "As a friendly and African country you can rely on our friendship," Khamene'i told Moi.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said Iran now enjoyed good relations in political and economic areas with many African states, and as an example cited the opening of 23 Iranian missions in various African countries after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Regarding the issue of apartheid which he described as Africa's great problem, Khamene'i said Iran has adopted a very strong position against the racist South African Government and always backed the struggles of the South Africans against the Pretoria regime.

"We are really sensitive towards the issue of Namibia and believe that the country has been usurped and must be returned to its people," he added.

President Khamene'i also said Iran would consider extending technical assistance to Kenya for oil exploration.

Visits Majlis, Hears Discussions

LD1511235988 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi went to the Majlis this morning and witnessed the discussions of the deputies in today's open session. On his arrival at the Majlis, the Kenyan president was welcomed by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis. On the basis of the report, Mr Karrubi, the deputy Majlis speaker delivered a speech in which he welcomed the Kenyan president and the people accompanying him, and expressed the hope that in the light of such trips the relations of oppressed [mostaz'af] countries would be strengthened so that they may be able to attain their ideals and aims.

In the meeting with the Kenyan president today, the Majlis speaker said: In the past, some important African countries, such as Egypt, were vanguards in the battle against colonialism. Unfortunately, today they are themselves the cause of stagnation and torpor in the African Continent.

In the meeting with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Kenyan president presented a report about Africa's political, economic, and cultural circumstances. He said: The establishment of understanding among hundreds of countries is a difficult task. Minds must be cleansed of colonialism. That is a problem Africa faces. We need patriotism and self-sacrifice in Africa, just the things your compatriots have demonstrated here. They have guarded their nation.

The Kenyan president added: When it is said to world powers: Give us new technology; they put at our disposal what they want to give us and not that which will meet our real needs. The Kenyan president then referred to the two countries' long-standing relations and said: We are pleased about that record of friendship.

In continuation, Mr arap Moi added: The Soviet Union and the United States pursue their own interests in Africa, and it is the blacks who are sacrificed in the process. The Kenyan president also said: When the great

powers do not want to involve themselves directly, they give the task to an agent. In your case, for example, they provoked Iraq and gave it the resources to carry out precisely their own aims.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: As we look from afar at the lack of development, debt, and divisions among the people in Africa, we see a very difficult situation. In the past, waves of wakefulness could be witnessed more frequently in Africa. At the moment, however, it seems that stagnation has taken place. In South Africa we witness how blacks are subjected to severed oppression and cruelty.

The acting commander-in-chief added: African countries must come together and think of something for the sake of their people. They all must unite. The Majlis speaker added: If you embark on united action, you can be certain that world public opinion will join you. In the past, some important African countries, such as Egypt, were vanguards in the battle against colonialism. Unfortunately, today they are themselves the cause of stagnation and torpor in the African Continent.

Kenya's Ouko Meets With Velayati

NC1611090988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Mr Robert Ouko, the Kenyan Foreign Minister, has met with our country's Foreign Minister Mr Velayati. They discussed the broadening of relations between their two countries. According to the Central News Unit, at this meeting the Kenyan foreign minister introduced the first Kenyan envoy to be sent to Iran since the victory of the Islamic revolution. He expressed his thanks for the warm welcome that Iranian officials have accorded the Kenyan delegation.

In his remarks, Mr Velayati also referred to the expanding relations between the two countries and expressed the hope that these ties would be further strengthened. He also explained the details of the Iran-Iraq peace talks and the Iraqi regime's obstinate attitude during these talks. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken effective steps to (?affirm) its sovereignty in these talks in order to support the UN secretary general's opinions. Mr Velayati stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will only forge ahead in these talks to the extent that the Islamic revolution's principles permit, and the sanctity of international regulations is upheld from all sides.

New Kenyan Ambassador Presents Credentials

LD1511114088 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—The first Kenyan Ambassador to Iran 'Ali Mohammad Berki submitted his credentials to President 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday.

President Khamene'i said Iran's policy after the'79 Islamic revolution stresses expansion of relations with African countries. He said Iran looks for positive qualities in nations as well as respects human values.

Indonesian Energy Minister Arrives for Talks

LD1311214288 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Nov 88

[Text] The Indonesian Minister of Energy and Mines arrived in Tehran this afternoon on a visit aimed at developing relations and increasing trade between Iran and Indonesia. He was welcomed by Oil Minister Aqazadeh and the Indonesian ambassador in Tehran. On his arrival in Tehran the Indonesian minister, speaking in an interview with us on his talks with Iranian officials, said that his visit is in return for Mr Aqazadeh's visit to Indonesia, and that he is bearing a message from his country's president for the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In addition to conveying that message there will be talks on bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

He said: In the light of growing trade relations between Iran and Indonesia we intend to buy oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran in exchange for goods to be delivered to Iran.

Oil Minister Aqazadeh also spoke about the talks with the Indonesian minister of energy and mines, saying: [Begin Aqazadeh recording] The talks with the Indonesian minister will deal primarily with relations between the two countries. We trade oil with Indonesia in exchange for imports of paper and other goods. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Received by Khamene'i

LD1411113188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] This morning President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i received Indonesian Mining and Engery Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita, who was carrying a message from Indonesia's President Suharto. At the meeting, which was also attended by Oil Minister Aqazadeh and the Indonesian ambassador to Iran, the Indonesian mining and energy minister first submitted the written message from his country's president expressing Indonesia's wish to expand and strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation, and conveyed warm greetings from his country's president. He referred to Iran's important role in OPEC and expressed the hope that OPEC will achieve greater success in its next meeting.

President Khamene'i then expressed his gratitude for Indonesian President Suharto's kind message and stressed the need for sincere and serious cooperation between OPEC members to acheive greater unity.

Musavi on Iraqi OPEC 'Violations'

LD1511094988 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 14 Nov 88

["Iraqi Violations Detrimental to OPEC, Says Musavi"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—In sharp contrast to the Iraqi regime, the Islamic Republic has always honoured decisions of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) despite its war problems and economic straits, noted Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today.

Terming Iran's demands as logical, Musavi drew the attention of the visiting Indonesian minister of mines and energy towards Iraqi violations. Iraq by demanding higher production quotas and refusing to abide by OPEC decisions is harming both itself and the 13-member organisation, he added.

The situation calls for bold decisions on the part of OPEC more than ever before in order to make a real change in the oil market, said Musavi. He expressed hope that member states could close ranks and rise to the occasion.

Ginanjar Kartasasmita agreed with the Iranian premier that Iraq is the only member which over-produces and markets its crude without the least regard for OPEC rulings. He said he understands Iran's stance and would support it.

The Indonesian minister who arrived here yesterday, was visibly concerned over the present situation, and said the organisation has become dangerously politically-oriented, which is harmful for all members.

Kartasasmita, who is scheduled to visit Kuwait and Baghdad later, thanked Iran for its logical stance and called upon the Islamic Republic to help solve OPEC's problem.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1511100088 Tehran IRNA in English 1853 GMT 14 Nov 88

["Indonesian Minister Winds Up 'Fruitful Visit'"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Indonesian refineries will use 30,000 barrels per day of Iranian crude, it was agreed today at the end of Indonesian minister of mines and energy's visit.

Ginanjar Kartasasmita who arrived here yesterday, handed a written message to President Khamene'i from his Indonesian counterpart General Suharto expressing keenness for expansion of economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

Minister of Oil Gholamreza Aqazadeh who saw off the Indonesian official at the airport told IRNA that the two discussed issues of mutual interest and topics relevant to the forthcoming ministerial meet of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Problems concerning members' quota, price and production ceiling were reviewed by the two sides, said Aqazadeh, terming Kartasasmita's visit as good and effective".i

Iran will import paper, caoutchouc and galvanized plates from Indonesia in return for its crude to that country's refineries, he concluded.

Kartasasmita is also to visit Kuwait and Baghdad before the 84th ministerial OPEC conference to be held in Vienna on Nov. 21.

Members of OPEC's price monitoring and long-term strategy committees, including Iran and Indonesia are to hold a joint session four days before the ministerial meet.

Larijani Meets With Soviet Official

NC1611085988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Mr (Venov), director general of a (?committee) of the Soviet Foreign Ministry who is currently on a visit to Tehran at the head of a delegation, met with our Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Larijani yesterday. At the meeting, Mr Larijani spoke in detail about the expanding relations between the two neighboring countries, and the usefulness of talks and consular agreements in prospects for the future relations between the two countries.

Commentary on Pakistani Minister's Visit

LD1411170188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpt] At the end of a 3-day official visit by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan who was today seen off by Iranian minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati, the two countries expressed satisfaction at the growing trend of bilateral political economic ties.

In view of the friendly relationship between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and Pakistan which has enjoyed remarkable growth, since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, political commentators have construed the recent talks between the Pakistani foreign minister and the high-ranking officials in Tehran as significant.

Among the issues discussed by the two sides were the developments in Afghanistan and the future of that country and also the IRI's relations with the Persian Gulf littoral states.

In the course of these negotiations, with respect to developments since the implementation of the ceasefire the IRI expressed its desire for expanding ties with

countries south of the Persian Gulf. In Iran's opinion the interests of the people in the region will not be secure without friendly cooperation from those countries.

Regarding the current developments in Afghanistan and the intensification of that country's problem in the present conditions, the two countries stressed that the destiny of that country should be decided by her people and the Soviet troops should evacuate that country's territory as soon as possible. In respect to the issue of Afghanistan the two sides also reiterated coordination of proximity of views of the Afghan mujahidin's seven-party coalition in Peshawar and their eight-party coalition in Iran. In the opinion of Pakistan, the Afghan issue should be resolved in such a way as to safeguard the interests of mujahidin and the refugees, whether in Iran or in Pakistan. [passage omitted]

In the framework of the IRI's foreign trade policy based on expanding economic and commercial ties with neighboring and Islamic countries; Iran and Pakistan possess great capabilities for mutual cooperation. On the basis of the present agreements between the two countries, Iran exports 20,000 barrels of oil per day to Pakistan and in return imports various goods.

These ties can be further expanded in the case of the expansion and connection of the network of roads and railways of the two countries. In addition, Iran and Pakistan, alongside Turkey cooperate within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and these cooperations can be expanded to the advantage of all three countries.

On the basis of possibilities which could expand cooperation among the ECO member countries, talks were held between Mr Salari, the Iranian secretary general of ECO, and the foreign minister of Pakistan.

Tehran Commentary on Pakistani Elections

NC1611111188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Central News Unit research group commentary: "General Elections in Pakistan—An Important Step Toward the Expanding Trend of Democracy"]

[Excerpts] Today, our neighboring Muslim country of Pakistan is holding general elections—for the first time since 1977, when General Ziaul Haq assumed power—with the participation of political parties. It is for this reason that stringent and extensive security measures have been taken in order to ensure free polling in the sensitive regions of the country. Police and military units are patrolling the highways in order to prevent clashes among supporters of rival groups.

More than 48 million of Pakistan's population of 100 million will cast their votes in 43,327 ballot boxes all over the country to decide who will win the 237 seats in the national parliament and 460 seats in the provincial parliaments. In these elections, for which the people of Pakistan have waited for 11 years, and on the results of which the eyes of the people at home and abroad are focused, more than 12 parties and coalition groups are participating. The two main rivals are the Pakistan People's Party, headed by Benazir Bhutto, and the Islamic Democratic Union, of which the most prominent member is Nawaz Sharif, who hopes to be Pakistan's next prime minister. The Pakistan People's Party and the Islamic Democratic Union held massive rallies in Lahore, the capital of the Punjab province, and in Peshawar, the capital of the NWFP, 48 hours before the elections, thus concluding the last stages of their electioneering campaign. [passage omitted]

Regarding the elections that are being held today in Pakistan, it is worth mentioning something that has transpired from the trend of the electioneering campaign and unofficial opinion polls in that country. This is that no single party or political alliance will gain a majority of parliamentary seats. It is being predicted for this reason that independent candidates or minor parties will also play a part in the final outcome of the elections. Thus, political observers believe that, of the two main rivals in the Pakistani elections—that is, the Pakistan People's Party and the Islamic Democratic Union—the party which can succeed in eliciting the support and votes of the Mohajir Qaumi Mahaz party and of independent and neutral candidates is the one that will emerge as the winner. Because of the important role of the Punjab province in Pakistan's domestic politics, deriving from its large population which gives it the most seats in parliament, these observers take the view that the results of the elections, which will probably culminate in the success of one of the two main rival parties, depend primarily on how the Punjab Province votes.

Thus, in view of the neck-and-neck rivalry in the electioneering campaign in the Punjab, it may be said that the chances of victory for the Pakistan People's Party and the Islamic Democratic Union are about equal in the cities. However in the villages and impoverished areas, the Pakistan People's Party has a greater chance of winning. [passage omitted]

Political observers believe that although the results of today's elections or their repercussions in future cannot be forecast at this juncture, smaller political parties are lobbying to obtain the people's votes in certain constituencies. Obviously their chances of success in attaining their political goals are limited, and not in proportion to their activity. In any case, Pakistan's future parliament will be comprised of representatives from various strata of society with differing viewpoints. The only individual or political group that will probably be able to head a new government after the results of the elections are announced will be one that is faithful to the ideals of Pakistan, which came into existence in 1947 because the majority of the people in the area were Muslims. In addition, the new government will have to respect the beliefs and viewpoints of others in practice, and permit them to participate in decisionmaking and powersharing.

Pakistan

'Sources' Say SS-1 Missile Lands in Northwest

BK1611143688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1433 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 16 (AFP)—At least 10 people were killed and 15 injured Wednesday when Afghan troops fired an SS-1 surface-to-surface missile into northwestern Pakistan, informed sources here said.

The Soviet-made Scud missile landed 200 kilometres east of here at Landi Market in the Bajur District of Pakistan's tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, the sources said, citing reports from the region.

The missile attack came about two hours after the start of nationwide legislative elections in Pakistan, the sources said.

The missile killed at least 10 people and destroyed five houses and shops, the sources said.

They said it was the first time a Scud missile had been fired into Pakistan. The Soviet Union supplied the Afghan Armed Forces with the weapons in early November for use against the Afghan resistance, or mujahidin.

The Afghan Army has since fired about three dozen of the missiles at mujahidin bases inside Afghanistan, according to Western diplomats.

The sources here said they believe the SS-1 missile which landed in Pakistan on Wednesday was fired from an Afghan base near Jalalabad garrison although Scuds were earlier launched from Kabul.

Afghan refugees and resistance guerrillas have bases in the tribal areas and border regions.

Official confirmation of the attack was not immediately available.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan Addresses Nation

BK1511180488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1435 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Address by Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to the nation on the eve of national elections; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear countrymen, peace be upon you. You might recall that I made a promise to you in my speech on the night of 17 August. I said: There will not be the slightest change in our faith in democracy. We will, God willing, continue to march on the shining path of democracy with complete determination and confidence. The elections, God willing, will be held according to schedule on 16 November and the government will fulfill all its responsibilities in holding them in a peaceful, fair, and impartial manner.

I also addressed you on the night of 26 August and renewed my pledge that elections would be held on schedule in a free, impartial, and peaceful atmosphere. I said that the elections would be held in accordance with the Constitution and laws, and that there would be no deviation from the Constitution and from democratic traditions during the transition of power after the elections. These were not mere pleasant promises or meaningless words, they expressed the feelings of my heart. It was a sacred pledge between you, myself, and my God. While making this pledge, I was fully aware of the situation facing the country and its implications. I knew that various issues had led the nation to a state of uncertainty. Apprehensions and suspicions made the future bleak. And particularly, the issue of elections remained in the minds of the people as a big question mark.

Unfortunately, some situations and incidents aggravated this state of uncertainty. Much of our beloved country was flooded. Many valuable lives and great sections of our national assets were destroyed by the fury of the floods. Life in a large part of the country was disrupted.

Then the anti-national elements played a very savage game of fire and murder in Hyderabad under a heinous conspiracy, and immediately after this the same game was repeated in Karachi and other places. The incidents resulted in suspicion and doubts concerning the elections, and several quarters said openly at that time that holding elections was not possible nor advisable. But it was the determination and sincerity of the government that instead of paying heed to these suggestions, devoted all its attention and efforts to resolving the difficulties and overcoming the situation. Speedy and sincere efforts were made to provide aid to people affected by the floods, and for their early rehabilitation and return to normalcy. This is still continuing in several sectors. Similarly, timely and effective administrative and legal steps were taken to improve the law and order situation in Sind Province and to create a sense of security among the people. The Armed Forces of the country gave their wholehearted assistance to the civil administration in dealing with all difficulties. They gave priority to national interests, as always, even during these difficult situations, and carried out all their responsibilities efficiently, helping the government to fulfill its commitment on elections. The entire nation is greatful to them for their assistance and extremely positive role. [passage omitted]

The government has made sincere efforts to fulfill its constitutional duties relating to granting necessary powers and provision of facilities to the Election Commission in order to ensure that free, fair, and impartial elections are held. It has on its own, or at the suggestion of the Election Commission, taken legal and administrative steps to ensure the free, fair, and impartial nature of elections. I have personally issued special directions to all provincial governments to provide all possible facilities to the Election Commission and to the personnel appointed by it.

All administrative resources have been brought under the control of the election machinery, and simultaneously, the government has made arrangements to secure the assistance of the Armed Forces if necessary. [passage omitted]

Dear countrymen, all these arrangements, steps, and preparations are aimed at not only holding free and fair elections, but also to make everyone aware of their impartial nature. I thank all my colleagues and the civil administration for their wholehearted cooperation in carrying out this great responsibility. However, our efforts will bear fruit only when it enjoys your cooperation as well. By you I mean the general electorate and the workers and leaders of the political parties. I acknowledge with an open mind that so far you all have displayed a mature sense of responsibility, prudence, and intelligence as a result of the sagacious leadership of political leaders. Apart from some untoward incidents, every election stage has been reached smoothly and everyone has cooperated in keeping the election campaigning peaceful. [passage omitted]

Here I would like to mention that the government has taken all necessary steps to maintain law and order, and it will never allow anyone to interrupt law and order. Elements trying to make such attempts will be dealt with very sternly. I hope that all political parties will extend the hand of cooperation in this important task as well.

A very heavy responsibility lies on the voters in promoting and strengthening the fabric of a healthy and developed Islamic democratic society. Tomorrow is the day to fulfill that responsibility. Voting is not only your fundamental right but also your national and moral duty. Please do not shirk in the fulfillment of this duty. You have always evinced profound interest in the political affairs of the country. Tomorrow, you must give practical proof of this interest as mature citizens. I appeal to all of you that you must exercise your right to vote. You have to decide according to the voice of your conscience as to whom you are going to cast your votes for.

According to the country's Constitution, those candidates should be elected who are men of good character and have full faith in Islamic teachings and the ideology of Pakistan; who are sagacious, virtuous, honest, and trustworthy, were not involved in any moral crime, are not engaged in activities against the stability of Pakistan, and are not against the ideology of Pakistan. The Constitution has described in very certain terms those people ineligible for election: those who are engaged in activities prejudicial to the national interests, for example, Pakistan's ideology, its territorial integrity, security, stability, moral values, or general peace and order, or who propagate any other ideology against these aforementioned activities.

You should test every candidate on the touchstone as prescribed by the Constitution and make an impartial decision. In fact, your individual verdict will decide the future of the country. Please remember that nature does not forgive the collective mistake of nations. You should make your decision keeping in view the broader interests of the nation and the survival and security of the motherland. Temporary aims and intentions, shortsightedness, and personal interests must not influence your decisionmaking power. You must always keep in your mind the stability of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, its progress and prosperity, and you must not forget that people have to play their constitutional role in bringing about a stable Islamic democratic government through the exercise of votes.

Dear countrymen, today you must vow not to support those who will try to rig the elections. [passage omitted]

In a democracy, the opposition party must play a very important role, and this role requires that one should not deviate from the democratic traditions. I would like to warn in very clear terms that the defeated candidates will not be allowed to give any other color to their defeat on the pretext of fabricated and groundless allegations of rigging in the elections or to change the people's verdict through the show of strength on the streets. This will never be allowed to happen. Nobody should believe that he is more powerful than the state. I assure you that the government will itself respect the verdict of the people and will ensure that others do likewise. This is the requirement of the democracy, and this is the very soul of our Constitution.

Here I would also like to assure you about the transfer of power. While transferring power to the elected representatives, there will certainly be no deviation from the constitutional requirements, and this time, God willing, a healthy tradition of respecting the people's verdict, which will emerge from the elections, will be established.

Dear countrymen, in our march toward democracy we, unfortunately, made several mistakes as a nation, for which we had to pay dearly. While undertaking the new journey, we should openly and coolly acknowledge and review those shortcomings so that we may be able to prove our foresight and wisdom in a better way in the future. [passage omitted]

If we wish that our supreme objective, our glowing thoughts and ideals, and our lofty moral values should once again lead us toward a stable Islamic democratic society, we will have to adopt a constructive way of thinking and a positive mode of action. We have to learn a lesson from the shortcomings of the past and begin the future with honesty and sincerity. I pray to God that He may make your paths easier and you may achieve your goals, that our future may be better than our past, and that our beloved country may achieve the new and lofty goals of stability, progress, and prosperity. Long live Pakistan.

'Unprecented' Security Noted as Polls Open

BK1611082688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0809 GMT 16 Nov 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Nov 16 (AFP)—Long queues formed outside polling booths Wednesday amid unprecedented security as Pakistan voted in its first party-based parliamentary elections in 11 years.

Tanks were stationed at strategic points in Karachi in troubled Sind Province, and in Lahore trucks armed with machineguns were cruising the streets in case of trouble, witnesses said.

There were allegations of major vote rigging in the two cities during the last election in 1977. No serious incidents had been reported by late morning Wednesday.

Soldiers were patrolling the streets in most towns, and the authorities had urged voters not to linger near polling booths after casting their votes.

They also urged people not to turn up carrying automatic weapons, as many people do in the tribal zones bordering Afghanistan.

Some 48 million people are eligible to vote for a 207-member National Assembly, the first on a party basis since the late Mohammad Ziaul Haq seized power in a military coup in 1977.

The elections have gone ahead as planned despite the death of President Ziaul Haq in a plane crash in August.

Voting got off to a slow start in Islamabad after polls opened across the country at 8 a.m. (0300 GMT), witnesses said, but long queues formed later outside schools and government offices being used as polling stations.

At polling stations in Lahore, Islamabad and Rawalpindi, turnout by 10 a.m. was lower than at the same time in the last elections, witnesses said, adding that people could be hesitating because of the Army presence.

In Lahore young people were playing cricket in the streets, which were nearly empty apart from the Army patrols, a resident said.

The polls close before sunset at 5 p.m. (1200 GMT) and tallying will start immediately.

The authorities have requisitioned private trucks, including some belonging to foreign firms, to ferry voters in rural areas to polling stations. [passage omitted]

Some 80,000 people will be involved in running the elections, and presiding officers at 33,328 polling stations set up at schools, colleges and government buildings have been given magisterial powers to check irregularities and mete out on-the-spot punishment to those violating election rules.

Special security arrangements had been made in Sind, where ethnic clashes in Karachi and nearby Hyderabad in September and October between native Sindhis and Urdu-speaking Muhajirs left more than 300 people dead.

In addition to the 207 National Assembly seats there are 10 reserved for non-Moslems—mainly Catholics, Buddhists, Protestants and Hindus—representing 1.36 million voters.

Voting trends in Punjab with 115 seats and Sind with 46 seats will be the key to victory, analysts say.

Neither the PPP nor the IJI has said it expects a landslide victory and analysts say minor parties could hold the balance of power, although Ms Bhutto is the favourite for the premiership according to pre-election opinion polls.

The National Assembly elections will be followed Friday by provincial assembly polls. Results in these are generally in line with the national elections, analysts here say.

'Long Queues' of Voters

BK1611051888 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Polling has begun throughout the country for electing National Assembly members for the next 5 years. There are long queues of voters to cast their votes. The elections are being held on party basis and various political parties and groups have fielded their candidates. Sufficient number of independent candidates are also contesting the elections. [passage omitted]

Ishaq Khan Visits Polling Booth

BK1611091288 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, visited a [word indistinct] polling station in Islamabad constituency today to see for himself the conduct of polling. He expressed his satisfaction at the conduct of polls in a peaceful atmosphere at the polling station.

Asked by the newsmen about overall situation, he expressed the hope that polling in the rest of the country (?was) being conducted in a similar smooth and peaceful manner.

To another question about the nomination of the prime minister and the election of the president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan reiterated that this will be done in accordance with the constitution.

Ishaq Khan Greets 'Arafat on State Declaration
BK1611090488 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The president has felicitated the PLO chairman, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, on the declaration of an independent Palestinian state. In a message to the PLO chairman, he said Pakistan has always supported the just cause of the Palestinian people and the people of Pakistan rejoice with their Palestinian brothers on this historic declaration. He assured Pakistan's continued unflinching support and prayed for speedy and final victory of the Palestinian people in their struggle.

Islamabad Recognizes Independent Palestine State
BK1611151488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Pakistan has recognized the newly established independent state of Palestine. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today.

Bomb Blast in Rawalpindi Kills 1; 'Many' Injured
BK1511123488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 15 (AFP)—One person was killed and many injured when a bomb exploded in a busy shopping area in Rawalpindi on Tuesday, the eve of Pakistan's general elections, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said.

The agency said the time bomb had been hidden under the cart of a street hawker selling second hand clothes. It went off at about 3:00 p.m. (1000 GMT), killing the hawker and injuring a number of shoppers, the APP said.

It cited police as saying that another explosive device had failed to detonate properly outside a bank an hour earlier. No injuries or damage were reported

The incidents came a day before 48 million Pakistanis are due to go to the polls in a general election.